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Or Ashkenazi
University Laboratory High School, Urbana
Teacher: Adele Suslick

Not everyone who played an important role in the Civil War is famous. A relatively unknown nurse helped care for many injured and ill soldiers, and her involvement was completely voluntarily. Mary Bickerdyke was a determined and powerful woman who served the North during the Civil War.

Bickerdyke came from a family of activists. Some of her ancestors arrived on the Mayflower. Others participated in the Revolutionary War, and her grandfather fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Such a family legacy encouraged Mary to participate in social movements.

Bickerdyke, however, had a rough childhood and a difficult life as an adult. She grew up without a mother and lived on a farm. She spent most of her time outdoors and performed the physical labor that shaped her into a strong woman. She attended Oberlin College, but an epidemic forced her to drop out. Bickerdyke then took a nursing course instructed by Dr. Reuben Mussey. In 1847, she married Robert Bickerdyke, a widower who died in 1859. This left her alone to support herself and her children when she lived in Galesburg, Illinois.

Not long afterward, Mary responded to the call for duty. President Lincoln asked for nurses and doctors to care for Northern soldiers during the Civil War. Bickerdyke heard this plea while attending a church service and decided to answer the call for help. With little money and few supplies, she left her house and children to contribute to the war effort. She wasted no time. She helped evacuate wounded soldiers on hospital boats

after the Battle of Fort Donelson. She organized a kitchen where sick soldiers received nutritious meals. She promoted hygiene by supplying portable baths consisting of a bowl made from an empty hog's head lined with a linen towel. Finally, Bickerdyke saw to it that each soldier received frequent physical examinations and was checked for diseases or potential physical problems. With the help of the United States Sanitary Commission, Bickerdyke oversaw more than three hundred field hospitals.

Although Mary Bickerdyke was brusque, she was kind to wounded soldiers. She bonded with them, and she acted as their mother, thus receiving her famous nickname, Mother Bickerdyke. Most people who worked with Bickerdyke noted her sharp mind and her common sense. Her priority was always for those who needed assistance.

Surprisingly, Bickerdyke was not paid a cent for all her hard work. Her five years of service were voluntary. After the war, she helped secure pensions for many soldiers, and in 1886 she eventually earned one herself from Congress for twenty-five dollars a month. Bickerdyke continued volunteering for different organizations such as the Chicago House of the Friendless. She eventually moved to New York City to work for the Protestant Board of City Missions. After four years, she relocated to Kansas where her sons lived, and she helped victims of the locust plague. Bickerdyke lived in Kansas until her death in 1901. Nurses and doctors in Illinois, however, did not forget her contributions. In 1903, the Grand Army of the Republic and the Women's Relief Corps raised five thousand dollars to build a monument in Illinois honoring her work. Even today, Bickerdyke serves as an example of patriotism and a role model for nurses. [From E. V. Erlandson, "The Story of Mother Bickerdyke." *American Journal of Nursing* 20.8 (May 1920): 628-631. *JSTOR*. http://www.jstor.org (Sept. 7, 2008); Henry McCormick,

The Women of Illinois. Pantagraph printing and stationery company, 1913. http://openlibrary.org/details/womenofillinois00mcco (Aug. 28, 2008); and Harris Elwood Starr, "Mary Ann Ball Bickerdyke." *Dictionary of American Biography. Biography Resource Center*. Gale. http://infotrac.galegroup.com (Sept. 7, 2008).]

Elizabeth Robinson

Jamie Blue
University Laboratory High School, Urbana
Teacher: Adele Suslick

In 1928, Elizabeth Robinson became the first female Olympic track and field gold medalist in the one hundred meter dash and the first silver medalist in the 4x100 relay race. After returning to the United States from the Olympics, however, Elizabeth was involved in a plane crash that prevented her from participating in sports for three years. Despite this setback, Elizabeth made an incredible come back and won the gold medal in the 4x100 relay race at the 1936 Olympics.

Harry and Elizabeth Robinson gave birth to Elizabeth on August 23, 1911, in Riverdale, Illinois. In high school, her athletic talent became obvious. As Elizabeth was running to catch a train after school, her biology teacher Mr. Price, who was also assistant coach to the track team, noticed her incredible speed. He asked her to run a fifty meter dash at school, and she did so in record time. Suddenly, Elizabeth had been discovered as a young female athlete with great potential.

Elizabeth learned quickly and began to compete immediately. Her first race was on March 30, 1928, at the Bankers Meet in Chicago. In the 100 meter race, Elizabeth placed second behind Helen Finkey, the American women's record holder for the one hundred meter dash. After that race, Elizabeth accepted an offer to compete and train with the Illinois Women's Athletic Club, and she traveled to the north side of Chicago to work out three times a week. On July 4 in Newark, New Jersey at the young age of sixteen, Elizabeth qualified for both the Olympic 4x100 and for the one hundred meter dash after participating in only three competitive races in her career.

Elizabeth and her teammates sailed together to Amsterdam to compete in the Olympics. While on the ship, the team practiced on a quarter mile linoleum track around the deck of the ship. After nine days, the boat anchored, but the athletes did not compete for a week, allowing them to adjust to the new environment and to continue training.

Elizabeth advanced farther than the rest of her team at the Olympics. The one hundred meter race was the first race of the Women's Track and Field events. Elizabeth beat Canada's Myrtle Cook and advanced to the finals. On the day of the 100 meter finals, nerves were strung as the contestants took their positions for the race. Both Myrtle Cook and Freulein Schmidt jumped the gun twice, disqualifying them from the race and leaving only four athletes to compete. Elizabeth was calm and composed as the athletes took their lanes. Elizabeth had Fanny Rosenfeld of Canada, who had beaten her in a previous race, in the lane to the right. Fanny got off to a good start as the gun sounded. Approaching the midpoint, Fanny and Elizabeth were dead even, but in the last few yards Elizabeth pulled away beating Fanny with a time of 12.2 seconds. After running track for only four months, Elizabeth had made world history.

Returning from the Olympics, Elizabeth began to work toward a degree in physical education at Northwestern University. She trained for the next Olympics until she was in a plane crash while traveling over Harvey, Illinois in June 1931. Elizabeth was nearly killed, and she was hospitalized for more than eleven weeks. She suffered facial lacerations, a crushed arm, a cracked hip, and a broken leg. A silver pin was inserted into her broken leg to hold the bone together, making her left leg slightly shorter than her right leg. Her knee also became "stiff," so bending it became difficult. Doctors said she would never compete again.

Elizabeth spent three years in physical therapy before she decided to try to run again. She discovered she was not as fast as she used to be, but she believed that if she worked hard enough, she might still be able to make the team. Elizabeth began to train with the Illinois Athletic Club in hopes of joining the 1936 Olympic team. After long months of training, Elizabeth qualified for the 4x100 meter relay.

The team preformed well. After making it through the preliminary rounds, the United States advanced to the Olympic finals. Elizabeth was eager for revenge in the 4x100 after placing second in the 1928 Olympics. The day of the race finally arrived, and the runners took their places. The gun sounded, and the race began. Germany had the lead until the baton was dropped, allowing Elizabeth and her teammates to win gold.

In conclusion, Elizabeth was the first female track and field athlete to win gold. She overcame tremendous obstacles in life and pushed past them showing she was a strong, brave woman able to handle any situation. After Elizabeth's second Olympic gold medal in 1936, she stopped running and married Richard Schwartz in 1938. Elizabeth, however, gave inspirational speeches all around the country on behalf of the Women's Athletic Association and the Girls' Athletic Association. She was inducted into the National Track and Field, U.S. Track and Field, and Helms Hall of Fame. After a life of success, Elizabeth died at age eighty-seven. To this day, Elizabeth remains the youngest woman ever to win the one hundred meter dash at the Olympics. [From Lifechums. "Dementia Series-Disabled Legend Betty Schwartz." *Lifechums*. 17 July 2008. <http://lifechums.wordpress.com/2008/07/17/ demetia-series-disabled-legend-betty-schwartz/>. (Sept. 11, 2008); Duncan Mackay, "A pioneering woman athlete, her Olympic record stands unbroken." *The Guardian* 25 May 1999: 22. Rpt. in *Obituary*.

Women in America. Gale. <http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/ >. (Sept. 11, 2008); David L. Porter, "Schwartz, Elizabeth Robinson." *American National Biography Online*. 22 Aug. 2008. Oxford UP. <http://www.anb.org/ >. (Aug 22, 2008); and Louis Mead Tricard, *American Women's Track and Field*.]

Marita Bonner: Writer and Teacher

Amber Burns
Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville
Teacher: Michael Voss

When people think about all things African-Americans went through during the Harlem Renaissance, no one tends to think about the women and what they went through. No one writes about this better than Marita Bonner. How did Marita Bonner's teaching and writing affect Illinois history?

Marita Bonner was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, on June 16, 1898. She attended Brookline High School and she belonged to many clubs, but the English Club and the Music Club were most important to her. She was an excellent pianist and she was also chosen to attend Charles T. Copeland's writing seminar. It turned out that one of her sketches, "Dandelion Season", had been selected to be read to the Radcliffe classes. As a senior at Radcliffe she also taught at the Cambridge High School and graduated in 1922. After graduation she taught at Bluefield Colored Institute, Bluefield, Virginia and then she taught at the Armstrong High School.

After moving to Washington, D.C., she then met her husband, William Almy Occomy. They married and then moved to Chicago. That is when her writing career really started. She wrote her first essay, "On Being Young-A Women-And Colored," and got it published in the *Crisis* and *Opportunity* in December 1925. This essay dealt with the different conditions the African-Americans, especially the women, had to go through and the weight of oppression on black females. She also argued against racism and sexism in this essay. Along with writing essays she also wrote numerous short stories. One of her first ones was "The Hands- A Story." It was published in the *Opportunity* in

August 1925. Along with essays and short stories she also produced three plays, “Pot Maker,” “The Purple Flower,” and the “Exit, an Illusion.” Her most popular one was “The Purple Flower.”

For writing the essay “On Being Young-A Women-and Colored” she won a prize. She also won the Wanamaker music prize for Negro Music in 1927. She continued publishing short stories until 1941. After that she taught handicapped children in the 1940s and then retired in 1963. She finally passed away in Chicago on December 6, 1971, from smoke inhalation complications after her apartment caught fire.

In conclusion, Marita Bonner made a difference in Illinois history by teaching and writing. It was all because of her writing the essays, short stories, and plays. Because she wrote these things people really started to take more interest in her short stories. Some examples of people’s interest were they saw her plays, read her stories and essays, and possibly had her as a teacher or heard about her teachings. Marita Bonner had a deep passion for African-American women’s rights and what they had to go through. If it were not for Marita Bonner, the life for the women in the Harlem Renaissance would have been very different. With all the things Marita Bonner did she probably changed many women and young girl’s lives and their views on life. [From Perspectives in American Literature, “Marita Bonner: A Brief Biography,” <www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/chap9/bonner.html> (Sept. 14, 2008); Monica White, “On Being Young-A Women-and Colored,” <www.uah.edu/womensstudies/aaww/bonner.htm> (Sept. 14, 2008); Harvard University Library, “A Finding Aid,” <www.oasis.lib.harvard.edu/oasis/deliver/~sch01097> (Sept.

14, 2008); and VG: Artist Biography, “Marita Odette Bonner: Biography/Criticism,” <www.voices.cla.umn.edu/vg/Bios/entries/bonner_marita_odette.html> (Sept. 14, 2008).]

Elizabeth Robinson

Ryan Creegan
Oregon High School, Oregon
Teacher: Sara Werckle

The women of Illinois' past have accomplished a lot, and Elizabeth Robinson was one of those women. She was the first woman to win a track and field gold medal at the Olympics. She did it once, and then when disaster struck, she made a comeback and won another. The Women's Rights movement took a big step when women were able to compete in the Olympic Games, and Elizabeth led that with her gold medal.

Elizabeth was born August 23, 1911, and was raised in Riverdale, Illinois. She attended Thornton High School, and that is where her amazing adventure began. A high school staff member spotted her sprinting to catch a train, and suggested that she started running competitively. A few weeks later she joined the Illinois Women's Athletic Club, and made her running debut. In the 100 m, she finished only second behind the current U.S. record holder. Then at the Olympic trials she tied the world record at twelve seconds. At the age of 16, she competed to the 1928 Olympics. Both the founder of the Olympics and the Pope were against letting women into the games, but they had been allowed to participate anyway. Elizabeth took the gold medal in the 100m by .1 second. She also helped the 4x100 relay get the silver medal.

In 1931, Robinson was involved in a plane crash, and was severely injured. Unconscious for 7 weeks, she was thought dead, but she had survived. Although she was unable to walk normally for 2 years, she recovered, and started training again. Women's rights took another step when, according to historian Adam Szreter, "she graduated from Northwestern University, from where she became the first woman to be awarded a varsity

"N"." She had missed the 1932 Olympics that were held in America, but came back and was able to compete in the 1936 Games in Berlin. Due to the metal rod that had been inserted into her leg, she was unable to take the starting stance for the 100m. Therefore, she was the third leg in the 4x100, where she could start from a standing position, and got the gold medal.

Elizabeth soon retired after her remarkable feat. She ended her Olympic career with two gold medals and one silver. In 1939, she married Richard Schwartz, owner of an upholstery firm. She continued her involvement in the sports through time-keeping and traveling the United States, speaking on behalf of the Women's Athletic Association and the Girls' Athletic Association. She was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame, the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame, and the Helms Athletic Foundation Hall of Fame. She passed away May 18, 1999.

Elizabeth Robinson achieved much throughout her lifetime. Events in her life ranged from being the first woman Olympic track and field gold medalist, to surviving a fatal crash, and then returning to win another gold medal a few years later. People look up to miraculous stories like this and Elizabeth will be forever remembered in the history of Illinois. It is the women like Elizabeth Robinson who stand out more than all the other women in the history of Illinois. She may not be the most famous, but her unique story puts her above the rest. [From Alex Madding, "Elizabeth Robinson," *Sprintic Magazine*. 2008. http://www.sprintic.com/athletes/elizabeth_robinson/. (Oct. 11, 2008); David L. Porter, "Schwartz, Elizabeth Robinson," *American National Biography Online*. 2008. http://www.anb.org/articles/19/19-00969-print.html. (Oct. 11, 2008); and Adam Szreter, "Obituary: Elizabeth Robinson," *The London Independent*. 2008. May 28, 1999

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4158/is_19990528/ai_n14238444. (Oct. 12, 2008).]

The Best of Mary Todd Lincoln, the Sixteenth First Lady

Jenna Endres
All Saints Academy, Breese
Teacher: Stephanie Garcia

Raised in a slave-owning and wealthy family, Mary Todd Lincoln, the daughter of Senator Robert and Eliza Todd, grew up in a fourteen-room house in Lexington, Kentucky, now known as The Mary Todd Lincoln House. It is still standing today. Mary's family owned salves, using them as servants in their home and helping care for the children. It might be unbelievable to some, but Mary later helped her husband end slavery, and even formed a bond of friendship with a former slave, Elizabeth "Lizzy" Keckly. Elizabeth often thought that others judged Mary too harshly, and after Lincoln was elected president, Elizabeth not only became Mary's tailor but one of her best friends.

At the young age of six, Mary experienced the pain of loosing her mother. Soon after, Mary's father remarried Elizabeth "Betsy" Humphrey and together had eight additional children, making their family a total of seventeen family members. Mary struggled daily to get along with her stepmother and at the same time she yearned for attention.

Mary's father insisted she obtain an education at a time when few women had been offered the opportunity. From 1826-1832 Mary attended Shelby Female Academy, later known as Dr. Ward's Academy where she studied grammar, geography, arithmetic, poetry, and literature. She later transferred to Madame Mentelle's Boarding School where she learned to speak and write French, and began dancing, singing, and performing

in plays. In 1837 Mary decided return to Dr. Ward's Academy to advance her studies. Being ambitious and intelligent, Mary was never one to sit back and worked to excel.

Mary Todd escaped her home at age twenty and made the decision to move to Springfield, Illinois, with her older sister, Elizabeth. In Springfield, Mary was unexpectedly attracted to Abraham Lincoln, a self-schooled son of a poor white farmer. After three years of a off-and-on-relationship and without the approval of her family, Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd finally married on November 4, 1842. A year later, Mary gave birth to her first son, Robert Todd Lincoln. Thomas, William and Edward were born soon after.

As Lincoln pursued in his career of becoming a Springfield lawyer, Mary stayed home taking care of their growing family. The years in Springfield were unlike anything she had ever known; they brought hard work to a woman who struggled with her responsibilities. Although she was committed to her marriage, Mary was lonely and ached for someone to who she could talk. When her husband came home in the evening he would sit, finish the work he brought home, and would rarely communicate with Mary. Then, in 1847 Lincoln was elected to a single term in Congress. This gave Mary and the boys a winter in Washington until Lincoln sent them home to Illinois because he became too occupied with his duties.

Abraham was constantly away campaigning for political office, practicing law, and in 1861 Lincoln, finally fulfilled his dreams of becoming president. Although Mary loved her husband deeply and supported his career, she wished they would be closer. On February 1, 1850, Mary and Abraham faced the devastation of losing their son, Edward, and three years later on February 20, 1863, they experienced another loss, their son

William, probably due to typhoid fever. Mary was so devastated that she stayed in her room for weeks and did not even attend Willie's funeral. However, Lincoln expressed his feelings a different way. Mary became very depressed. Many thought she began showing signs of mental distress, most likely due to the death of her boys. He would not show any emotion in public, but instead Mary would hear him weeping quietly in his room.

In 1865 Lincoln was elected to another term as president. Then on April 14, 1865, Abraham and Mary visited Ford's Theater to watch a presentation of "Our American Cousin." It was meant to be a relaxing evening for the president and first lady who were exhausted from the war that had finally come to an end, but they were unaware what lay ahead. Lincoln was assassinated and died the next day.

Feeling the devastation of losing her sons, Edward and William, and her husband, Mary became worried she was financially ruined and her behavior caused her to sell off many of her possessions, even though she had the proceeds from Lincoln's estate and a generous retirement fund from the federal government. Consequently, Mary moved to Chicago and spent some time touring Europe but nothing seemed to help. Then the unthinkable happened. Her son, Thomas Lincoln, died at the age of 18 and in 1875 her only surviving son to reach adulthood, Robert, who became very worried about his mother, declared her mentally incompetent since he feared she was not able to take care of her affairs and could possibility commit suicide.

She spent the last months of her life with her older sister, Elizabeth, and died in Springfield, Illinois, on July 16, 1882. Mary was still wearing her wedding ring when she died and was buried next to husband in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery. During

her lifetime, Mary Todd Lincoln mourned those she loved so dearly. Faced with many obstacles in her life, she often felt shamed, abandoned, and isolated. [From Jennifer Fleischner, *Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Keckly*; Lyndee Henderson, *Remarkable Illinois Women*; Harold Holzer, *The Lincoln Mailbag*; Elizabeth Keckley, *Behind the Scenes*; Henry Moon, "Mrs. Lincoln, Wife of the President," *Harper's Weekly*, November 8, 1862; Helen Nicolay, *Lincoln's Secretary*; Ruth Randall, *Mary Lincoln Biography of a Marriage*; Carl Sandburg, *The Prairie Years and the War Years- Abraham Lincoln*; Brian Thornton, *101 Things You Didn't Know About Lincoln*; The White House, "Mary Todd Lincoln" <http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies/ml16.html> (Oct. 11, 2008); and H. Donald Winkler, *Lincoln's Ladies*.]

Gwendolyn Brooks

Courtney Fane
Oregon High School, Oregon
Teacher: Sara Werckle

Throughout history, people have been discriminated against because of the color of their skin. African Americans were often held back from their dreams just because of this reason. Gwendolyn Brooks was one of those people, but she overcame many obstacles to achieve her dream. She was the first African American to receive a Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and is best known for her poetic descriptions of African American city life.

Born on June 7, 1917, in Topeka, Kansas, Gwendolyn Brooks was the eldest child of Keziah, a school teacher, and David Brooks, a janitor. Later that year, she moved to Chicago where her two siblings were born. Her parents often read to her and encouraged her to do well in school but she was a shy girl. She later said, "I am a writer, not a talker." Most of her childhood was spent writing poems. Her friends and family even called her the "female Paul Lawrence Dunbar," who was a famous African American poet. Brooks received many compliments on her writings. By the age of sixteen she had written over 75 poems.

After graduating from Wilson Junior College in 1936, Brooks worked as a director of publicity for a youth organization of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She also participated in readings and workshops at Chicago's South Side Community Art Center, writing a verse that eventually appeared in her first published volume, *A Street in Bronzeville*. In 1939, she married Henry L. Blakeley, another young writer and they had two children, Henry Jr. and Nora Blakely. Brooks continued to write poetry while the children were asleep or later while they were

in school. A second collection titled *Annie Allen* was released in 1949. Then, in 1950, Brooks was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for poetry, becoming the first African American to be granted this honor.

Gwendolyn Brooks's work from this period contains descriptions mostly of African Americans involved in their day-to-day city activities. The critics labeled her early work as intellectual and scholarly. Although these poems speak out against the oppression of blacks and women, some of them have another meaning. In many of the poems she criticized the prejudice that African American people have toward one another. In *Annie Allen*, she examines the traditional roles of mother and father, and husband and wife, concluding that they can be somewhat damaging to those who try to live up to their ideals. These messages were more hidden though.

In 1967, Brooks's work achieved a new tone and vision. She changed to more simple writings so her themes could come across more strongly. Some of these works included *In the Mecca, Riot and Aloneness*. These works are much more direct and are designed to increase the reader's level of racial awareness. Brooks now favored free verse rather than the traditional poetic forms.

During the 1970s, Brooks taught poetry at numerous institutions for higher learning including Northeastern Illinois University and University of Wisconsin at Madison. While her concern for African Americans and hope for racial harmony was the main subject of her verse, in the early 1970s, this was replaced in the later 1970s with a sense of disappointment from the lack of unity among the members of the Civil Rights Movement. She made comments such as, "Don't let anyone call you a minority if you're black or Hispanic or belong to some other ethnic group. You're not less than anybody

else." This was reflected in *Beckonings*, where she urged African Americans to break free from the controls of white American society and seemed to favor violence as an acceptable way to achieve freedom.

In her later years, Brooks spent time encouraging others to write by sponsoring writers' workshops in Chicago and poetry contests at prisons. She took her poetry to her people, continuing to test its worth by reading and speaking in taverns, lounges, and other public places. In 1985, she was named as the poetry consultant for the Library of Congress. In 1990, her works were guaranteed a permanent home when Chicago State University established the Gwendolyn Brooks Center on its campus. She continued to write, publishing *Children Coming Home* and *Blacks*, both published in 1992. She also continued to inspire others to write, focusing on young children by speaking and giving poetry readings at schools all around the country.

In 1997, on her eightieth birthday, Gwendolyn Brooks was honored with tributes from Chicago to Washington, D. C. Although she received many tributes, perhaps the best came from her publisher saying, "She is undoubtedly one of the top one hundred writers in the world. She has been a chronicler of black life and almost a legend in her own time. Gwendolyn Brooks died of cancer at her home in Chicago on December 3, 2000 at the age of 83. [From Harold Bloom, ed. *Gwendolyn Brooks*, 2000; Gwendolyn Brooks, *Selected Poems*, 2006; George E. Kent, "A Life of Gwendolyn Brooks." http://www.notablebiographies.com/Br-Ca/Brooks-Gwendolyn.html (Oct. 12, 2008); Jone Lewis, "Gwendolyn Brooks." http://womenhistory.about.com.brooksgwendolyn.htm (Oct. 12, 2008); D. H. Melhem, *Gwendolyn Brooks*, 1987; and Kenny Williams, "Brooks Life and Career: The Oxford

Companion to African-American Literature."

http://www.english.edu/maps/poets/a_f/brooks/life.htm (Oct. 12, 2008).]

Myra Bradwell: The Unstoppable Female Force

Ana V. Fleming
Washington Gifted School, Peoria
Teachers: Mindy Juriga and J. Tracy Prescott

Though the issue had long been recognized, it seemed as though no one would fight for justice, for, was it impossible for men and women to be equal? Unfortunately, it seemed so, which thrust several women into rebellion, wishing that somehow, they might earn respect. With time, the issue seemed to gain more attention, eventually catching the eye of a seemingly everyday schoolteacher. This woman's name was Myra Bradwell, an intelligent, powerful, and passionate believer in both her future and the future of women in Illinois. What seemed socially acceptable at the time was, in fact, a web of limitations placed upon the female gender. Avidly, Myra Bradwell fought to bring long-awaited justice to the situation, though what she gained also altered Illinois government immensely. In response to restrictive, gender-prejudicial laws in the 1800s, Myra Bradwell was determined to win rights for women; she persevered, thus paving a course to future opportunity for women in Illinois.

Eager to get involved in law, Myra Bradwell fulfilled a legal apprenticeship in her husband's office, assisting him with cases, during which time she gradually began to recognize her evident talent within the profession. Although Myra Bradwell had passed the Illinois Bar Exam with prodigious honors in 1869, she was arbitrarily denied her license to practice. Instantaneously, Mrs. Bradwell reacted, for she knew exactly why she had been rejected. In fact, there was no legitimate reason, naught but the fact that she was a woman. Appalled and enraged, Myra Bradwell filed suit against the state of Illinois, thus spawning the ever-controversial case "Bradwell vs. Illinois". Senator

Matthew H. Carpenter was hired to defend Myra Bradwell in court, and did so with extreme confidence and loyalty, thoroughly delighting Mrs. Bradwell. Issues addressed were those such as prejudice against female assets, as Illinois' initial fears were that women would use "persuasive" characteristics to sway cases in their favor. Though the senator proved excellent and quite valid points, the court remained displeased and rather uninterested in Myra Bradwell's case, which only thrust the pair to a merciless loss in 1873.

Myra Bradwell knew that it would be challenging to achieve what she chiefly desired—equality—but she was a resourceful woman, and she allowed no insignificant loss to impede her; hence, Myra Bradwell used one essential asset to her great advantage: writing. Myra Bradwell was granted permission to begin her own newspaper, *The Chicago Legal News,* in 1861. In order to run the newspaper, Myra Bradwell acquired a specified grant that allowed her to perform transactions under her own name, rather than her husband's, and thus she became a female publisher, manager, and editor of her own paper. Through the *Chicago Legal News,* Myra Bradwell could express her opinions freely and boldly, eventually using the paper as her unlimited voice, commenting on anything from general social injustice to the incompetence of judges and lawyers in Illinois courts. Despite the fact that Myra Bradwell was a woman, readers seemed thoroughly taken with the *Chicago Legal News.* However, the paper *did* face several complications, including the Great Chicago Fire, which devastated the paper's offices.

Despite her radical success, arrogance never seemed to phase nor cross Myra Bradwell, as she held her companions equal to her associates, and was therefore eager to help Mary Todd Lincoln in her time of desperation. In 1875, Mrs. Lincoln called to

Myra Bradwell for assistance for release from a sanitarium. Demonstrating her clever expertise, Myra Bradwell was able to ease and minimize the press, then displaying her legal knowledge to secure the release of her close friend, once more proving Myra Bradwell's evident competence.

In the 1890s, Myra Bradwell became, at long last, a licensed legal attorney, accepted to the Illinois Bar, and appeared before Supreme Court. Myra Bradwell served as vice president of the Illinois Bar Association, for four terms, during which time she participated in the creation of the Chicago Bar Association. Though, in addition, she was a passionate, willful women's activist, which earned her the status of secretary of the Illinois Women Suffrage Association. In her new position, she gave a speech at a Chicago convention in 1869 that helped form a greater image of women's opportunities in Illinois. She could not hesitate, though, and Myra Bradwell's fervent obsession with gender-equality was eagerly displayed as she fought for passages of Illinois laws, including an 1872 law that allowed women to enter any and all professions. Then, once more, Myra Bradwell's writing expertise interfered, and she was responsible for the specific change of "man" to "person" in an Illinois law of public notaries, balancing the equality of man and woman as she saw fit. Unable to conceal her naturally dynamic character, Myra Bradwell participated in the penning of Illinois bills, such as the Married Women's Property Act of 1861, and the Earnings Act of 1869.

It seemed as though nothing could tame Myra Bradwell and her pro-feminine equality mindset, and nothing men attempted could. Truthfully, she possessed everything a woman could hope for in a lifetime—remarkable success, a strong family, and her rightful place in history. The journey that may have begun as a quest for

women's opportunity in law had rapidly changed into the journey that took the female gender to bewildering heights. Though, initially, Myra Bradwell sought what was said to be the impossible, she ended up altering Illinois government and general discrimination in a way that people had always longed, but never fought gallantly enough for. It can safely be said that Myra Bradwell died an accomplished woman, an inspirational, influential women of her time, and a magnificent woman in law—and nothing less than a great woman in Illinois History. [From Jane M. Friedman, *America's First Woman Lawyer*; Lyndee J. Henderson, *Remarkable Illinois Women*; John H. Keiser, *Building for the Centuries*; New York Times Company, "Myra Bradwell, Founder of the *Chicago Legal News.*"
<http://womeninbusiness.about.com/od/famouswomenentrepreneurs/p/myrabradwell.html> (Sept. 20, 2008); and Oxford University, "Bradwell, Myra Colby,"
<http://anb.org/articles/11/11-00095.html> (Sep. 18, 2008).]

Louise de Koven Bowen

Aishwarya Gautam
University Laboratory High School, Urbana
Teacher: Adele Suslick

Few people have heard of Louise de Koven Bowen despite her many accomplishments and her close friendship with Jane Addams. This influential Illinoisan dedicated her life to educating women about their rights and to helping juveniles live in a healthy environment. She published two books and several pamphlets as well as other educational material. Louise was a suffragette, author, children's activist, philanthropist, feminist, wife, and mother of four.

Born in Chicago in 1859, Louise lived there for most of her early childhood. Hers was a comfortable life since her family was wealthy; nevertheless, Louise committed herself to helping those less fortunate. She wrote two influential books. *Safeguard for Youth at Work or at Play* addressed the need for regulating drugs and providing a better environment for all children. *Growing Up with a City* discussed Louise's involvement in the struggle for women's and children's rights.

Louise's friendship with Jane Addams began when Addams invited Louise to join the Hull House Women's Fund. They shared many common goals, and Louise served as treasurer and trustee for 35 years. She later became the president of the Women's Club, an organization that encouraged women to participate in business and politics. Louise also provided financial support to several other organizations. Her contributions to Bowen Hall and the Boy's Club exceeded $500,000, and in 1911, she donated 72 acres of land in Waukegan, Illinois, which became the Joseph T. Bowen Country Club, a summer retreat for Hull-House children.

Louise was also a member of Chicago organizations that encouraged women to vote and to become more independent. She served as an officer in many of them and even attempted to become the Republican candidate for mayor of Chicago, but she did not win the nomination. She claimed that women were not fully exercising their right to vote and that was why men were continuing to dominate politically. As a member of the Chicago Equal Suffrage Association, Bowen not only encouraged women to vote, she also encouraged them to take political action and to seek government office.

Bowen was also one of the first women in Chicago to address the needs of children. At the time, children were treated poorly within the legal system; hence, Bowen, along with other women reformers and the Chicago Bar Association, fought to separate delinquent children from adult offenders. In 1898, the court agreed, although no provision to pay probation officers was made. To remedy the problem, the Juvenile Court Committee (JCC) was formed to raise money for salaries. In 1904, Louise served as the vice-president of the Juvenile Court Committee, although in 1907, the JCC disbanded due to lack of funding. Bowen then formed the Juvenile Protection Association (JPA). In addition to fundraising, the JPA disseminated public health and social welfare papers, and Louise served as president of the JPA for 25 years.

Bowen also led a campaign to regulate the sale of liquor on the streets and to prohibit liquor sales in public dance halls. The law she proposed was passed when Carter H. Harrison, Jr. was mayor. When "Big Bill" Thompson was elected mayor, however, public reform became harder, and regulations were not enforced as strictly as before. Peddlers continued to sell liquor near and even in dance halls without consequences.

In conclusion, Louise's hard work significantly helped women. They followed her example and actively sought jobs in government. They voted in greater numbers. Hull House became a safe and supportive environment for children, and juveniles lived in delinquency centers separate from adult criminals. In short, Bowen left a rich legacy for the state of Illinois. [From *Biography of Louise de Koven Bowen*. 1996. http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/specialcoll/services/rjd/findingaids/LBowenf.html (Aug. 25, 2008); Chicago Sun-Times *Illinois Women*, (1996); Agness Gilman, *Mrs. Joseph Tilton Bowen*; and *Hull-House Highlights*. 2001. http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/newdesign/highlights4.htm (Sept. 4, 2008).]

Mother Jones: Mother of the Downtrodden

Hanane Goelzer
Washington Gifted School, Peoria
Teacher: Mindy Juriga and J. Tracy Prescott

Mary Harris Jones lived through many hardships including famine, epidemics, fire, and poverty, but she only got stronger and more independent. She was born in the 1830s to a poor family of seven in Inchigeelagh, Ireland. Her family emigrated to Canada where her illiterate parents made an unusual effort to keep her in school until she was seventeen years old. Jones had her first experience with labor unions when she moved to Memphis to marry George Jones, who was a factory worker. As the yellow fever epidemic spread through Tennessee, her husband and four children died, and she left the Irish and African American strikers of Memphis for Chicago. Due to the large number of laborers working in horrible conditions in Illinois in the late eighteen hundreds, many strikes occurred, several of which were started by the motivated and independent Mary Harris Jones.

Jones first came to Chicago as many immigrants did, looking for work. She had experience as a seamstress and a teacher, but she opted for the first choice. Though she was skilled, she kept being reminded that her class would never change. The wealthy would make their own little world and ignore all the people too poor to be part of it. The lower class resented them, and it fueled many strikes in Chicago. Mary Harris Jones settled in a neighborhood near to the somewhat infamous Mrs. O'Leary. In 1871, her cow supposedly started the Great Chicago Fire and Jones, along with most of Chicago's other citizens, had to flee to the lake. When the fire was put out, she returned to find she had lost everything. And to make it worse, the people with hard feelings towards the Irish had something else to hold against them.

In the ruins of Chicago, the Knights of Labor started meeting in a burned down building. Mary Harris Jones started volunteering as a labor organizer after one meeting. Immigration was the center of the movement as the United States was changing from an agricultural economy to an industrial one. Immigrants and displaced farmers came to work in the horrible conditions and starvation wages of Chicago's factories and sweat-shops. Mary Jones's role was very important; she held educational meetings to boost the laborers' spirits, led hunger marches, and organized the striking armies of tramps. The Chicago authorities responded to strikes with intimidation and violence and were supported by the Chicago *Tribune*, who suggested the strikers be handled like rodents, with strychnine and arsenic. An unfortunate example of their incompetence was the incident at Haymarket Square in Chicago. While the police was breaking up a strike, a bomb was thrown and many people were killed or injured. Authorities rounded up the leading radicals and hundreds were beaten, questioned, or detained. The number of laborers in unions immediately declined by seventy-five percent and strikes became smaller and more narrow. Mary Harris Jones remembered it as a formative moment and changed her birth date to May 1 to honor it.

In the 1880s Jones left the Knights of Labor and started working for the millions of mistreated miners. Illinois was where some of the United States' first coal was discovered and where the first mining operation took place in the 1800s. There were more than 5,000 mines in all of Illinois. The mining towns themselves were problematic. They were completely isolated so the owner controlled everything, including the conditions. More than 50,000 miners died in forty years from industrial accidents, disease, and the conditions inside the mines. Soon to be the largest, most powerful union,

the United Mine Workers met Mary Harris Jones when she was not in any particular union. She was their most charismatic organizer, and though she lost as often as she won, the United Mine Workers went up by thirty percent. She lived with the workers in their tents and made them like family, visiting them at home and in the mines. One of the reasons for Jones's fame was her efficient strike techniques. Women were usually not allowed in mines because of superstition, but she told the men to stay home and the women and children would strike as they were motivating and less prone to imprisonment.

Mary Harris Jones heard much about the children working twelve-hour days in sweatshops and factories, but she did not believe how bad it was until she worked in a mill herself. Jones showed her outrage at child labor in the first article she wrote, and led children in strikes and hoped to ultimately stop them from working. One of the obstacles she met in Chicago was the number of unemployed willing to work. There was also much violence in attempts to stop the strikes and many people were killed. The biggest strike she helped organize in her life was a nationwide strike with 300,000 people, of which 40,000 were Chicagoans. Mary Harris Jones died on November 30, 1930, seven months after her one-hundredth birthday. She was buried in the United Mine Workers' cemetery at Mt. Olive, Illinois, and kept rebellion going even after her death. Strikers from the United Mine Workers would walk off their jobs and march to her grave. Due to the large amount of laborers working in horrible conditions in Illinois in the late eighteen hundreds, many strikes occurred, several of which were started by the motivated and independent Mary Harris Jones. The name Mary Harris Jones, however, had stopped being used by nineteen-hundred, and she was referred to only as Mother Jones. With the

change of name, her fame spread, as it symbolized her being the mother of the downtrodden. The role of Mother Jones freed her because women of that era led quiet, homebound, family devoted lives. Women, especially elderly ones, were not supposed to be politically active. Mary Harris Jones did more for Illinois than just participate in strikes; she helped found the Social Democratic Party, was present at the founding of the Industrial Workers of the World, and organized millions of striking workers. [From Elliot J. Gorn, *Mother Jones*; Elliot J. Gorn, "Mother Jones: The Woman," *Mary Harris Jones* May/June 2001; "Jones, Mary Harris (Mother)," *American Women's History* Dec. 1, 2000; *"Mother" Harris Jones Biography*. 25 Jan. 2008. Lakewood Public Library. <http://www.lkwdpl.org/wihohio/jone-mar.htm>. (Sept. 9, 2008); and *Mother Jones: The Miners' Angel*. 2003. Illinois Labor History Society. <http://www.kentlaw.edu/ilhs/majones.htm>. (Sept. 29, 2008).]

Lydia Moss Bradley, Changing Peoria

Mitchell F. Griffith
Washington Gifted School, Peoria
Teacher: Mindy Juriga and J. Tracy Prescott

Peoria, Illinois, one of modern Illinois' largest cities was once a small farming village, struggling to exist. Somehow this city fought to grow; somehow this community began to grow. This growth was expedited by a woman named Lydia Moss Bradley. She made many philanthropic actions in order to aid the village, but greatest of these was the school she set up in Peoria, Bradley Polytechnic Institute. Through this donation, Lydia Moss Bradley made a significant impact on Peoria, Illinois; thus earning the title..."Angel of Peoria."

Lydia Moss Bradley's contribution to Peoria was that of an institute that would subsequently improve Peoria. Bradley was, at first, planning to donate an orphanage to Peoria in memory of her many deceased children, but after her husband's death, Lydia Bradley began leaning toward the idea of educating children, rather than raising them. After this decision, she visited numerous colleges and institutes, studying how to run a university. One such college was the Parson's Horologic Institute. This institute was the first of its kind, a university that taught its students a specific trade, watch making. It was stationed in Indiana before Lydia Bradley funded its move to Peoria. The building it was moved to was on the land where Lydia Bradley's institute would later stand. Bradley, being a person always wishing to aid, then moved a watch company to work in the same building as the institute. Students were able to work along side their betters, while learning. The watch company eventually started making bicycles as well, bringing business to Peoria involving bicycle export and sales. Both establishments shared the

building happily, until the watch and bicycle company's half of the building burned to the ground in 1892. The institute remained open for another year after the bicycle company sadly burned, until it closed as well due to insufficient funding. Throughout these events Lydia Bradley was studying the institute, realizing slowly that she not only wished to teach students a profession, but also subjects like domestic economics that could be used in average life. For twelve years, Lydia Bradley was also profiting from her large share of Central Illinois farming land, readying her funds, in order to establish her institute. Her second step in her college studies was to consult the founder of the University of Chicago, William Harper, in order to plan out class schedules and financial decisions of the institute. Harper encouraged her to open as soon as possible, and also convinced her to establish a two-year college course that fed into the University of Chicago. This allowed Chicago and Peoria to have a social connection, affecting the schooling of Peorians. Lydia Bradley commenced construction, and in 1897 the Bradley Polytechnic Institute opened. On the day the institute officially opened Lydia Bradley pledged another seventeen acres of land, and promised to annually donate half of her net income of $25,000 to the school. The education of students was set up as a high school, followed by an optional two-year college course. The school was coeducational because Lydia Bradley wanted the students to be prepared as well as they could for their real life jobs. This educational institute benefited Peoria from its opening, teaching Peorians, among others, the way to manage their lives and find their future vocation.

Rather than only teaching the people of Peoria, the Bradley Institute also has altered the city both economically and socially. When the school opened in 1897 it was an institute, but over the years the institute became a university, being renamed Bradley

University. The school now attracts numerous students to Peoria, from around the country and the world. When the establishment was originally founded, Lydia Bradley decided the land around the building should be a sight of beauty; hence, she had many trees planted and numerous roads paved with bricks. The land was then sold to those who wished to buy it, allowing homes for Peorians to be built. This allowed a larger neighborhood area in Peoria. Among these buildings, there are some now used as dorms by college students. The modern university supplies Peoria with workers for various jobs, along with classes that sometimes work for the city of Peoria as part of their education. Workers provided by Bradley University, along with unpaid ones for projects they sometimes do for the community are those that exponentially aids Peoria's work force and business. Due to the unfathomable number of people who have moved to Peoria to walk Bradley's halls, businesses have grown in the city. Establishments of services and product alike have flocked to the campus area in order to be used by the students of Bradley University. These businesses provide jobs for Peorians as well as causing Bradley University to indirectly aid Peoria. Bradley University itself is one of Peoria's main employers, with a faculty of more than 300 on average annually. Along with this, the college also directly aids Peorians through the many classes and workshops provided for children and adults. Bradley's athletic teams are considered Peoria's college team, advertising the city even more with each victory and season played by the team. Peorians now have a team to cheer for, providing Peoria loyalty and pride for its citizens.

Through her donation of her institute, Lydia Moss Bradley has made a significant impact on Peoria, Illinois; thus earning the title..."Angel of Peoria." Though Lydia Bradley died on January 16, 1908, neither her legacy nor her calling ended in Peoria.

Through all her feats of kindness and business actions, Peoria lives on as a powerful city. Her university, once a polytechnic institute, still stands, teaching those of Peoria and others who will change the world and Peoria. The city is now a center of business and popular residence due to Bradley University. With all these accomplishments and congratulated efforts under Lydia Bradley's doing, it is true that the "Angel of Peoria" could be satisfied in regard to her life's work. [From Bradley University, "Bradley University," <http://www.bradley.edu/about/facts.shtml>. (Oct. 2, 2008); "Leaves Estate of $2,800,000," *Herald Tribune* (Summer 1907), C3; Nancy Ridgeway, "Centennial Series: Lydia Moss Bradley: Businesswoman With a Cause," *Bradley University Hilltopics* (1996) 1; Nancy Ridgeway, "Centennial Series: Lydia Moss Bradley: Making Dreams Come True," *Bradley University Hilltopics*, (Winter 1997) 2; Nancy Ridgeway, "Centennial Series: Lydia Moss Bradley: Philanthropist," *Bradley University Hilltopics*, (1997) 3: Allen A. Upton, *Forgotten Angel*; and Louis A. R. Yates, Speech, Jun. 18, 1980.]

India Edwards

Vivian Hagerty
University Laboratory High School, Urbana
Teacher: Adele Suslick

India Edwards was born to Archibald Walker and India Thomas Walker on June 16, 1895, in Chicago, Illinois. She became an advocate for women and helped secure governmental jobs for them. She herself became a close advisor to President Harry Truman and encouraged him to appoint women to government positions.

In December 1917, India married Daniel Sharp. Unfortunately, he was killed the following year while fighting in World War I, and India sought employment outside the house. In 1918, she started writing for the Chicago Tribune. For her first eighteen years at the Tribune, she worked as the society editor, and for the last six years, she edited the Women's Page. In 1921 while still at the Chicago Tribune, India married Jack Moffet. The couple had two children but divorced in 1937. Five years later in 1942, she married Herbert Threkeld Edwards. Since Herbert worked for the State Department, the couple moved to Washington, D.C..

Shortly after this move, India began campaigning for the Democratic Party in the 1944 election. Running in that election was Governor Thomas Dewey, Republican, from New York, and President Franklin Roosevelt, Democrat, who was seeking re-election after three terms in the White House. She wrote speeches, radio scripts, and publicity releases, supported women's political rights, and worked without pay. After the election, she volunteered for the women's division of the Democratic National Committee.

India soon became a prominent figure in politics. In 1945, she served as executive secretary of the women's division of the Democratic National Convention.

India was often bothered by the careless way some male politicians acted towards women, and she found ways to provide women with better political and government jobs normally held by men. Because of this, she is often thought of as "the most effective advocate for women in the Truman administration." In 1948, India declined to chair the Democratic National Convention. She was still, however, a very close advisor to Harry Truman. In 1949, she sent a letter to President Truman that was influential in the appointment of the first woman judge in a District Court.

As India rose higher in politics, she received many important opportunities. She is thought to have been the first woman to be nominated for vice-president in U.S. history. In 1952, Adlai Stevenson chose her to be his running mate, but she declined the nomination. Five years later in 1957, India asked Harry Truman if she could write his memoirs. He agreed and told her to "tell the truth and pull no punches!" In 1977, her autobiography, *Pulling No Punches,* was published. The Women's National Democratic Club subsequently held a luncheon in her honor where she debuted as an author. It was, coincidentally, held on the same day as her eighty-second birthday.

Being the innovative thinker that she was, India Edwards influenced and inspired many women. She once said, "Sometimes I felt like a ghoul. I'd read the obits, and as soon as a man had died, I'd rush over to the White House and suggest a woman to replace him." She made it possible for many women to find better jobs, changed how men viewed women in politics, and accomplished many "firsts," such as being the first woman nominated for vice-president. In the 1980s, India moved to California with her husband Herbert, and she still drove her own car at the age of 88. India Edwards died at the age of 94 in 1990. [From Andrew J. Dunar, "Edwards, India," *American National*

Biography Online. 2000. <http://www.anb.org.proxy2.library.uiuc.edu/articles/index.html>. (Aug. 24, 2008); "India Edwards," *Biography Resource Center*. 17 Dec. 2003. Gale. <http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/BioRC?vrsn=149&locID=uiuc_uc&ste=1>. (Sept. 8, 2008) ; Dorothy McCardle, "India Edwards, 82, Still 'Pulling No Punches'." *Washington Post* 16 June 1977: C3. *LexisNexis Academic*. LexisNexis. <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe>. (Sept. 11, 2008); and Martin Weil, "India Edwards, Pioneering Woman In Democratic Party, Dies at 94," *Washington Post*, Jan. 16, 1990: B5. *LexisNexis Academic*. LexisNexis. <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe>. (Sept. 11, 2008).]

Mary Agnes Chase

Christina Harden
University High School, Urbana
Teacher: Adele Suslick

Mary Agnes Chase was a dedicated feminist, activist, agrostologist, and botanist. She received many awards for advancing botanical science, for publishing many articles on grass species, for serving 60 years at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and for working with activist groups, all with only an elementary school education.

Mary Agnes Chase was born on April 20, 1869, in Iroquois County, Illinois. Her father, Martin J. Meara, was a railroad worker and farmer; her mother was Mary Cassidy Brannick. When Agnes was only two, her father died. After his death, Agnes, her mother, and her five siblings moved to Chicago. Agnes' formal education ended after elementary school because she had to perform various jobs to help with household expenses. In 1888, while working for the *School Herald* as a proofreader, she met the editor, William Chase, and they married shortly thereafter. Unfortunately, he died after only one year of marriage.

In spite of these setbacks, Chase became world renowned for her career in botany and for her work in agrostology, the study of grasses. Chase was originally interested in botany as a hobby. Her interest in plants began at her son-in-law's store in Wady Petra. In 1897, Chase began to collect specimens and to record her findings. On a plant collection trip in 1898, she met Ellsworth Hill, an amateur bryologist who studied moss and liverworts. He served as her mentor, taught her to use the microscope, and employed her to help him illustrate his findings. He encouraged her to apply for the job of

Botanical Artist at the USDA, where she worked under Albert Spear Hitchcock for 31 years. She began as an illustrator and soon became Hitchcock's research assistant and then assistant botanist. After Hitchcock's death in 1936, she became senior botanist, and soon after, in 1937, she became the Custodian of the Section of Grasses of the US National Museum; her responsibility there was the grass herbarium. She also helped international students by letting them stay in her house and by supporting them during their study in America.

Agnes achieved many things over the course of her career. She produced, for example, more than 70 articles about grass species. In 1992, she also published *A First Book of Grasses: The Structure of Grasses Explained for Beginners*. Agnes illustrated the book herself and revised it twice; in 1960, it was translated into Spanish. Agnes also made collection trips to various locations. Most of these were to South America, but she also worked in the United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Brazil. Her discoveries of new grasses were sent to the United States National Herbarium.

In addition to being a world famous botanist, Chase was also an activist and suffragist. She was a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliations, the National Women's Party, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She was also a socialist and a prohibitionist, and she did many notable things as a feminist. Chase, for example, was, in 1918, one of the first women to picket the White House. She was arrested, jailed, and began a hunger strike so that she had to be force-fed. She was also arrested for burning all of Woodrow Wilson's publications that contained either the word "liberty" or

"freedom" because he did not support women's suffrage. Because of her radicalism, Chase was nearly removed from the USDA.

Chase received many awards for her contributions to agrostology. In 1956, the Botanical Society of America awarded her a certificate of merit, claiming she was "one of the world's outstanding agrostologists." Two years later, when Chase was 89 years old, she received an honorary degree from the University of Illinois. The Brazilian government also presented her with a service medal, and she was made the eighth honorary fellow of the Smithsonian Institution.

After 60 years of working for the USDA and other organizations, Chase had become a world-renowned agrostologist. She collected more than 10,000 grass species and discovered most of them. Chase eventually donated her entire grass herbarium to the Smithsonian Institution before she died in 1963 at the age of 94. [From Lesta J. Cooper-Freytag, "Mary Agnes Meara Chase," *Women in the Biological Sciences: A Biobibliographic Sourcebook*. Ed. Louise S. Grinstien, Rose K. Rose, and Carol A. Biermann, eds.; "Mary Agnes Chase." Encyclopedia of World Biography Supplement. Vol. 24. Biography Resource Center. Gale. <http://galenet.galegroup.com.proxy2.library.uiuc.edu/servlet/BioRC?vrsn=149&locID=uiuc_uc&ste=1> (Sept. 10, 2008); Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie, "Chase, Mary Agnes Meara." *The Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science*; and Micheal T. Stieber, "Chase, Agnes." *American National Biography.*]

Mary Margaret Bartelme

Sarah Heffley
University Laboratory High School, Urbana
Teacher: Adele Suslick

Mary Margaret Bartelme played an important role in Illinois history. She championed the rights of children, especially those of young girls caught in the Illinois court system. She helped thousands during her lifetime, and even today her efforts continue to help minors.

Mary was born in Chicago in 1866, where she grew up and attended high school. After graduation, she taught in the Chicago public schools at the age of nineteen; however, she did not want to remain a teacher. Hence, in 1892 she returned to school. She initially considered going into medicine, but after meeting Myra Bradwell, a legal journalist, she changed her mind and applied to law school. Mary attended Northwestern Law School and was the only woman in her class. She excelled in law school, and when she wrote her thesis, *The Chicago Legal News* published it.

At the beginning of her legal career, Mary became interested in probate law. She began working for both the federal and Illinois Bar in June 1894. In 1897, after working at the Illinois Bar for three years, she became Public Guardian in Cook County at the recommendation of Judge Christian C. Kohlsaat. She was the first woman to hold this position. In 1913, she became an assistant to Judge Merritt W. Pickney, and in 1920, she became an elected judge.

Mary advocated for children in the Illinois court system. She helped create juvenile courts in Illinois when she was a member of The Women's City Club, which

passed the Juvenile Court Act of 1899. These juvenile courts, the first in the United States, prevented children from being in close contact with possibly dangerous adults.

Mary also helped to create a court specifically for young women in 1913. She hired only females to work in it so the young women would feel more comfortable and be able to talk honestly about the reason or reasons for being involved in the court system. Mary Bartelme helped children outside of courtrooms as well. She established Mary Clubs, houses for young girls who were appearing in court. Many girls could not stay at home because they were abused by their parents. Initially, the first Mary Clubs were available only to girls who were white, but in 1921, Mary worked with the Friendly Big Sister's League to open a Mary Club for colored girls. In the first ten years that Mary Clubs existed, more than 2,600 girls stayed in them. Mary made sure these girls were provided with suitcases filled with clothes and toiletries.

In conclusion, Mary Bartelme helped many children during the years she served Cook County. Her dedication and hard work continue to help children in Illinois almost 100 years later. [From Bernadine Dohrn. Investigating the Rights of Youths. http://www.abnet.org/publiced/youth/sia/youthrights/dohrn.html. (Sept. 7, 2008); Maggie Hoag. Women in the Legal Profession. http://womenslegalhistory.stanford.edu/papersC4/BartelmeMM-Hoag.pdf. (Sept. 7, 2008); Marilyn Elizabeth Perry. Bartelme, Mary Margart. http://www.anb.org/articles/11/11-0034.html?a=l&g=f&p=Illinois&ia=-at&b=bib&bs=Illinois&d=10&ss=8&9=119. (Aug. 25, 2008); and Mary Margaret Bartelme. http://www.stanford.edu/group/WLHP/articles/clnbartelme.htm. (Sept. 7, 2008).]

Jane Addams – Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize

Lauren Krebs
All Saints Academy, Breese
Teacher: Stephanie Garcia

In 1931, she was the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace prize. To most people this was no surprise because of her lifetime accomplishments. This unique and amazing pioneer was Jane Addams.

On September 6, 1860, in Cedarville, Illinois, Laura Jane Addams was born to Sarah and John Addams, and the last of nine children. Her father had been the state legislator in Cedarville for sixteen years and directed a bank as well as a railroad. Jane's parents were very strong willed and were strict disciplinarians.

However, when Jane was only two, her mother became seriously ill and died. Jane's oldest sibling took over the mother's job of raising the family, and Jane and her father became much closer since she was the last link to his wife.

As Jane grew older she suffered from Potts' disease causing her spine to curve severely. She became very self-conscious about her physical appearance. Her father convinced her to stop focusing on her faults and start thinking about helping others; so that's what she did.

In 1877, at the age of seventeen, Jane attended Rockford Female Seminary College. She not only became class president, but also headed the literary society, edited the school magazine and was still diligent in her studies. Consequently, she was selected valedictorian of her class, receiving her bachelor's degree in 1881.

From 1882 to 1887, Jane toured Europe with her friend, Ellen Starr. She viewed the endless poverty as well as the slums in almost every country. She visited the

Toynbee Hall, a place where the homeless find refuge. Jane began reflecting and thought she could possibly put together something like Toynbee Hall in her hometown, Chicago. After returning, Jane and Ellen Starr got right to work, searching for a good location for a settlement house. They knew they needed a large house with easy access, a peaceful atmosphere and a location in the middle of several different cultures. They found the Hull Mansion that had been built in 1856 and it met all their needs. The process of buying and renovating the home took several years. When completed it became known worldwide as the Hull House. Jane made a pact, "to provide a center for a higher civic and social life; to institute and maintain educational and philanthropic enterprises, and to investigate and improve the conditions in the industrial districts of Chicago." She worked hard to make sure women had equal rights and to educate them on things they had in common as well as the qualities that made them unique. This Hull House became a haven for those who were deprived. It provided a kindergarten and day care facilities for the children of working mothers; an employment bureau; an art gallery; libraries; English and citizenship classes; and theater, music and art classes. Throughout the years, as the complex expanded to include thirteen buildings, Hull House supported many clubs and activities such as a labor museum, the Jane Club for single working girls, meeting places for trade union groups, and a wide array of cultural events. Jane dedicated her life to these causes until she died.

In 1905, Jane Addams took on more responsibility when she was appointed to Chicago's Board of Education, and afterwards she was made chairman of the School Management Committee. In 1908 she participated in the founding of the Chicago School of Civics and the next year became the first woman president of the National Conference

of Charities and Corrections. She also led investigations on delivering babies, milk supplies, and sanitary conditions, and even became an official garbage inspector of the Nineteenth Ward. In 1910 Jane was the first woman to receive an honorary degree from Yale University.

In January 1915, she accepted the chairmanship of the Women's Peace Party, an American organization. She continued in this position until her death. Four months later she accepted the presidency of the International Congress of Women. Jane Addams joined other organizations, including the International Congress of Women in an effort to end the First World War. In 1920 she was elected first president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. When the International Congress of Women later founded the organization the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Jane served as president until 1929. She also served as honorary president of six international conferences.

Jane Addams wrote many books such as *Excellent Becomes the Permanent, a Centennial Reader, Democracy and Social Ethics, the Long Road of Women's Memory*, and *Twenty Years at Hull-House with Autobiographical Notes*. Jane Addams died in Chicago on May 21, 1935, from a heart attack. She was buried in Cedarville, her childhood home town. Many thought her death was a catastrophe because she brought love and peace to those who needed it and always held out her hand to those in need.

[From "About Jane Addams." Institute of Museum and Library Services <http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/newdesign/ja.html> (Oct 27, 2008); Jane Addams, *Excellent Becomes the Permanent*, 1932; Jane Addams, *A Centennial Reader*, 1960; Jane Addams, *Democracy and Social Ethics*, 1964; Jane Addams, *The Long Road of Women's*

Memory, 2002; "Jane Addams the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931." Nobel Foundation <http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1931/Addams-bio.html> (Sept. 17, 2008); "Jane Addams." New York Times Company <http://womenshistory.about.com/od/addamsjane/p/jane_addams.htm> (Sept. 16, 2008); Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull-House with Autobiographical Notes*; F. Davis Allen, *American Heroine The Life and Legend of Jane Addams*; Gioia Diliberto, *A Useful Woman The Early Life of Jane Addams*; Ellen Ferris, *When I was a Little Girl*, 1930; "Introduction to an Exhibit Photograph of Jane Addams, Her Family, and Hull-House." Swarthmore College <http://www.swarthmore.edu/Library/peace/Exhibits/janeaddams/addamsindex.htm> (Sept. 27, 2008); W. Knight Louis, *Citizen*, 2005; and Jean Wagoner, *Jane Addams A Little Lame Girl*.]

Jane Addams: Impact on Illinois

Brooke L. Langley
Washington Gifted School, Peoria
Teacher: Jurgia and J. Tracy Prescott

Have you ever wondered what life was like for many of your ancestors? Thanks to Jane Addams and her idea of the Hull House, life was good for many in the late 1800s and early 1900s. There was an empty spot inside of Jane Addams, and after visiting some of the less fortunate, she realized her calling. After years of feeling ugly and helpless, Addams met Ellen Starr, and together they thought up an idea to help the needy citizens. Together the women founded the Hull House, thus helping many Illinois citizens find hope in their daily lives. As a result of overwhelming immigration and trouble with the economy, Jane Addams founded the Hull House thus helping many immigrants find a home in Illinois and providing mothers, teens, and toddlers with special classes.

The key influence in Jane Addams' life was her father, John Huy Addams. The main reason that Jane Addams felt despair throughout her life was because of her father's death. Jane Addams once stated that her father was the one who incorporated her into "the moral concerns of life". Her first encounter with poverty was when she asked her father why people lived in awful houses so close together. After her father explained it to her, she replied that she would have a large house in the middle of all the small ones, which was later the Hull House. Most of the poverty and tough situations that Jane Addams saw, took place in Illinois which was also influential because she wanted to help mostly people in her home state. Meanwhile, Jane Addams visited a shelter for about sixteen old colored women, and also visited "a little colored orphan asylum." She discovered that she felt better after visiting one of the charities than she ever had after a

lecture or art exhibit with her school. This showed how much Jane Addams truly enjoyed spending time with the less fortunate and the people living at the home. Later Jane Addams visited East London and described her experience there as overwhelming with poverty which was inflicted upon the city. She also returned to Europe in late 1887 to visit Toynbee Hall, which was founded as the world's first settlement house. In June 1888, Jane Addams went back to Toynbee Hall, which later became the model for the Hull House. When she went, the people were so welcoming, and she found a home with them easily.

Jane Addams wanted to provide an environment as nice as the Toynbee Hall for her "settlement house." She wanted an environment where residents felt welcome and relaxed, instead of stressing about everything going on in their towns, cities, and states. Throughout her life, Jane Addams would say that there were many young men and women "whose uselessness hangs about them heavily," and who had led over-cultivated and undernourished lives. Jane Addams always felt that this description perfectly fit her, her life, and all of the events that took place within it. In fact, she also stated that these young men and women desperately needed something useful to do, but at the same time there was much that needed to be done to help those people trapped in poverty and cut off from culture.

Jane Addams and Ellen Starr met and became friends immediately. As soon as Jane Addams had shared her ideas of helping people with Ellen Starr the two were looking for a place to begin the Hull House because Ellen Starr also felt the need to serve the general public and help the needy. The ladies needed a large house with easy access, a peaceful atmosphere, and a location in the middle of several different cultures. This

search took a very long time; however, they finally found a house in a rundown neighborhood in Chicago, the city where the two had been staying together. They found this house one Sunday afternoon in the spring of 1889, on the corner of Halsted and Polk. Jane Addams and Ellen Starr investigated over the next several days, and the mansion was in an area of mostly foreign-born, working, poor people belonging to about thirty ethnic groups. The area had many parochial schools but very few public schools. Boys and girls as young as nine or ten spent their days instead, working in sweatshops and factories. The Hull House later helped these children by providing classes and helping the children get a better education. The house that they favored was in the nineteenth ward, one of the most impoverished and neglected of Chicago's thirty-four wards. After finally moving in, the Hull House became and institution offering educational, recreational, and other services to needy people.

After a long wait, the Hull House opened and had its first resident. Jane Addams described this 'first resident' as a older lady who read to listeners from Hawthorne. From then on the Hull House received guests from the womb all the way to their death beds. Each person in Chicago had a specific need that the Hull House could meet because of the imagination of Jane Addams and her work to make sure that everyone that came got and equal amount of service.

As a result of overwhelming immigration and trouble with the economy, Jane Addams founded the Hull House this helping many immigrants find a home in Illinois and providing mothers, teens, and toddlers with special classes. Jane Addams always stood up for what she believed and never cared what others thought, as long as her ideas were helping someone. Her idea for the Hull House sheltered many homeless and fed

those led to starvation. The house also gave wonderful classes to try and help educate the young minds in the country at that time, since many could not afford school. Jane Addams made a huge difference in the lives of many, including her own. She gave hope and courage to those who may have felt lost. [From About Jane Addams, 2001, The University of Illinois at Chicago, <http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/newdesign/ja.html>. (Sept. 21, 2008); Nicolle Bettis, Jane Addams 1860-1935; Women's Intellectual Contributions to the Study of Mind and Society, <http://www.webster.edu/~woolfinjaneaddams.html#criticism>. (Sept. 21, 2008); Allen F. Davis, *American Heroine*; Marshall W. Fishwick and Sam Welles, *Illustrious Americans*, 1968; Dennis B. Fradin and Judith B. Fradin, *Jane Addams*; James W. Linn, and Anne F. Scott, *Jane Addams*; and Cornella Meigs, *Jane Addams*.]

Julia Lathrop-Shorter

Leah Malkovich
University Laboratory High School, Urbana
Teacher: Adele Suslick

Julia Lathrop used compassion to improve the life of poor children in Illinois. She was one of the first to serve at Hull House in Chicago and worked tirelessly on behalf of mothers, their children, the mentally ill, and juvenile delinquents.

Julia Lathrop's family, both extended and immediate, taught her to assist those less fortunate than herself. She was a descendent of Reverend John Lothropp, who immigrated to America in 1634. Both sets of her grandparents were pioneers in the Abolitionist movement in Illinois and were also some of the earliest settlers of Rockford, Illinois. Julia Lathrop's parents were politically active in Rockford society. Her father, William Lathrop, was an attorney and a friend of President Lincoln's as well as a member of the Illinois legislature. He served in Congress from 1877 until 1879, and he helped draft the first bill allowing women to practice law. Julia Lathrop drew upon the activist legacy of her family in order to promote her own social work in Illinois.

Julia was born on June 29, 1858, the eldest of five children. Her parents believed that women should have the same opportunities as men; consequently, they never let Julia or her sister feel disadvantaged because they were girls. In fact, they encouraged Lathrop from a young age to engage in whatever activities or studies interested her even if they were primarily "boyish" studies. Her parents valued education and made sure she completed both high school and college. They wanted her to succeed at life and enjoy herself. Her father's love of politics and his will to change the way things were run

throughout the state and nation deeply affected Julia. He passed on to her his wish to reform civil service.

Julia graduated from Rockford High School in 1876. She attended the Rockford Seminary for one year and, in her own words, transferred to a "real women's college" in 1877. The college she chose was Vassar College. She graduated in 1880, after studying statistics, institutional history, sociology, and community organization. After graduation, she returned to Rockford and worked in her father's law office. During the years between 1880 and 1890, she also studied law with guidance from her father.

Lathrop decided that she wanted more out of life; therefore, she went to work for Hull House in Chicago in 1890. Hull House was a settlement home for the needy in a notoriously poor part of Chicago. The more famous Jane Addams, with the help of Lathrop, started Hull House in the home of Charles J. Hull.

In 1892, two years after Lathrop joined Hull House, the Governor of Illinois appointed her to the State Board of Charities. Lathrop assumed this position in June 1893. She received this position in recognition of her extensive knowledge about residents' living conditions. Her study exposed how much poverty there was in the area around Hull House. Consequently, she wrote *The Hull-House Maps and Papers,* a book about Hull House and the area surrounding it, and she published it in 1895. Lathrop also visited all 102 of the poorhouses in Illinois.

In 1899, Julia Lathrop established the first juvenile court in the United States for individuals under sixteen years of age. The juvenile court founded by Lathrop was the model for new social welfare programs that encouraged probation instead of incarceration. Juvenile courts completely changed how neglected, dependent, and

delinquent children were tried in a court of law. Juvenile courts treated minors not as adults, but as children and took the child's living situation into consideration.

Julia continued to serve the poor, when in 1918, she became the second woman president of the National Conference of Social Work, following in Jane Addam's footsteps. In 1921, she was appointed by President Taft as the first head of the U. S. Children's Bureau. As head of the bureau, she organized a study of infant mortality and found that unsanitary conditions, lack of health care, and extreme poverty were the main causes of infant death. With the results of this study, Lathrop launched an educational campaign that helped to decrease infant mortality.

During the last two years of Lathrop's life, she fought to create a law against the execution of minors. Her inspiration was a seventeen year-old boy from Rockford named Russell McWilliams who stopped a streetcar and shot the motorman. After pleading guilty, he was scheduled to be electrocuted in December of 1931. Lathrop wrote a public letter against this decision and had several letters and petitions sent to the governor of Illinois. After a long and difficult process, McWilliams was given a 99-year sentence instead of death.

At the time of her death, Lathrop was in her hometown. No matter where she traveled, she always came back to Rockford, Illinois. When Lathrop died, several of the world's social welfare leaders took note of her death and called her a very humble and influential woman. She passed away on April 15, 1932 at the age of 73.

In conclusion, Julia Lathrop was an industrious woman who achieved much for those living in poverty. She helped change the way that juvenile delinquents and the mentally ill were treated and helped educate expectant mothers about prenatal care. She also helped create Hull House and was one of the first workers there. When Julia Lathrop died, those in need around Hull House and Illinois lost an important voice. [From Edith Abbott, "Julia Clifford Lathrop." *Dictionary of American Biography*. 2008. *Biography Resource Center*. Gale. <http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/?db=BioRC>. Aug. 24, 2008 ; Jane Addams, *My Friend, Julia Lathrop*; Amy Reynolds Alexander, "Reformer Julia Lathrop Attention to Detail Got Her Results." *Investor's Business Daily* Jan. 5, 2001. *LexisNexis Academic*. LexisNexis. University High School Library. <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe>. Sept. 7, 2008; John Middlemist Herrick and Paul H. Stuart, "Lathrop, Julia Clifford." *Encyclopedia of Social Welfare History in North America*. 222-223. Google books http://books.google.com/books?id=2t-f8dedRuUC&printsec=frontcover#PPA223,M1 (Sept. 18, 2008); "Hull House." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. 2008. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/275272/Hull-House>. Sept. 18, 2008; "Hull House Jubilee." *Time* 19 May 1930. *Time Inc*. 2008. <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,739282,00.html>. (Sept. 18, 2008); "Julia Lathrop." *Vassar Encyclopedia*. 14 Oct. 2007. <http://vcenclopedia.vassar.edu/index.php/Julia_Lathrop>. (Sept. 7, 2008); Laura Schwartz, "Julia Lathrop 1858-1932." *Women & Health* Sept.-Oct. 1977: 2; and

David S. Tanenhaus, "Juvenile Courts." *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. 2005. Chicago History Museum. <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/682.html>. (Sept. 28, 2008).]

A Woman Like No Other

Shannon Mensing
All Saints Academy, Breese
Teacher: Stephanie Garcia

Over 100 years ago, Frances Willard was a leader who fought for women's rights. Her house, Rest Cottage, can still be found in Evanston, Illinois. Because she became an avid leader in the Temperance Movement, she was one of the first women to have a statue placed in Statuary Hall at the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

On September 28, 1839, Frances Elizabeth Willard was born in Churchville, New York, one of three siblings. At the age of two, her family moved to Oberlin, Ohio, in order that both parents could further their college education. Her father studied for the ministry, but within five years, his health began declining; it was thought he had contracted tuberculosis. A physician recommended pursuing a life outdoors; hence, Willard decided on farming. As a result, Frances' family packed up and set out on a three-week journey to Wisconsin. Upon arriving, her father constructed a house, making sure it had a study room for Frances and her siblings.

By the time Frances turned fourteen, her father and a neighbor built a school house a mile away from their home for the Willard's children and all the children in the area. Not to her father's liking, in 1856, Frances, along with her sister, Mary, began attending the Milwaukee Female College. By 1858 both transferred to the Northwestern Female College in Evanston, Illinois and, in that same year Frances graduated and was named valedictorian. At both Milwaukee and Evanston, her teachers knew her as a respectable and reliable student who loved to read and write. Little did they know, fifteen years later she would begin her work in the Temperance Movement.

After graduation, Frances decided to pursue a career in teaching. In 1860, she found a job at Harlem, Illinois, at the age of twenty-one. Some thought the undisciplined boys would drive her away from her job, but Frances won them over. After two years, her brother took over her position and she moved on. Frances began teaching at an academy in Kankakee, Illinois. Shortly after she began, Frances received a call informing her that her sister was very ill. She immediately returned home, and after burying her sister, returned to Harlem to resume her teaching position.

In 1863, Frances was offered a job at Pittsburg Female College, where she wrote a biography about her sister called "Nineteen Beautiful Years." She taught at Pittsburg for a year before returning to Evanston to teach at the Grove School. In 1866, Frances taught at the Genessee Wesleyan Seminary in Lima, New York. Not long after, her father passed away and Frances and a friend, Kate Jackson, ventured to Europe to study European culture. When she returned in 1871, she became the first women elected dean of Evanston College for Ladies, but resigned as a result of conflict in 1874 at the age of 35.

After leaving Evanston, Frances began taking an interest in the Temperance Movement. Frances' father was part of the temperance society and believed in no drinking, and total abstinence. It was natural for her to follow in her father's footsteps, and it was not until the Women's Christian Temperance Crusade came to Chicago, Illinois, did Frances become more enthusiastic about the Temperance Movement. She began speaking out and after a few months was soon asked to speak at various temperance assemblies.

She moved east to become more active in the movement and attended the first Gospel Temperance Camp meeting in Maine in 1874. Though few people believed in her, Frances, rather than accepting a position as the principal at a boarding-school, accepted a position as the president of the Chicago branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Upon returning to Chicago, Frances worked endlessly; her main goal was to convince more people to join the crusade. Eventually, she moved to a higher position, the office of corresponding secretary, and by 1879 Frances was elected president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

After becoming president, Frances traveled extensively, and rarely had time for her favorite pastimes such as reading, art exhibits, and music. She always stood firmly for her beliefs and persuaded others to join the Temperance Movement. In 1881 Frances became a supporter of the Prohibition Party and journeyed South. She spent the next three years convincing people to join the fight for prohibition, and in 1884 the Women's Christian Temperance Union openly supported her cause.

In 1866, a temperance hospital was founded in Chicago, and Frances was named superintendent. In that same year, Frances attended the first national council of women, where women from all over, met and talked about their work and united to share knowledge. Frances wrote a world-wide petition, addressed to governments all over the world. She wanted women to sign it, showing their desire for a better world and, surprisingly she was able to obtain over a million signatures by 1895.

In 1891, Frances was traveling less to be home with her aging mother. She eventually died in 1892. After her death, Frances and her friend, Lady Henry Somerset, sailed to England. They traveled back and forth between America and England for the

next six years. While in England, she often spoke about women's suffrage. She could see the British wanted no part of an American telling them what to do, but she soon convinced them to follow her beliefs. Returning to America, she was welcomed back with open arms.

She returned to her hometown in 1897. She made one last speech at her church, telling everyone about her hopes and dreams for the future. In 1898, she traveled to New York, where she died February 17, 1898, after suffering from influenza.

Hundreds lined the streets and stood by her casket to pay their respects to one of the greatest temperance leaders and reformers in America. She was a woman who found her place in society and never backed down from adversity even though, she was not always met with approval. [From Ruth Bordin, *Frances Willard A Biography*; Anna A. Gordon, *The Beautiful Life of Frances E. Willard*; Ray Strachey, *Frances Willard Her Life and Work*; and Lydia Trowbridge, *Frances Willard of Evanston*.]

Ida B. Wells-Barnett Biography

Amanda M. Payton
Washington Gifted School, Peoria
Teacher: Mindy Juriga and J. Tracy Prescott

Through the years, there were many people that worked for civil rights. This occurred because there were severe injustices done to the African-Americans just because of their skin color. There were also many people working against sexism to women. Due to efforts of both of these causes, many riots broke out, many innocent people were killed, and many lives were forever changed. Even so, the government did things to both help and hinder the work against sexism and for civil rights. Some famous workers in these causes were Rosa Parks, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King Jr. but one woman alone started the Civil Rights Movement. All across Illinois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett helped to stop injustice visited upon African-Americans, such as lynchings and lack of fair trials, through her career as a powerful writer.

The main topic that Wells wrote and researched was the countless lynchings that took place across the state, and the country, and about how these lynchings were, "a systematic attempt to subordinate the black community". She took time to study all the lynchings that happened across the state and across the nation for the years 1892, 1893, and 1894. In 1894 alone, 132 people were executed in the United States due to the law, and 197 others were killed by mobs without a chance for a fair trial. Furthermore, she found out that 728 executions through lynchings alone happened in the 10 years prior to 1894. Through her research, she also took time to write and tell the public about the things she uncovered. She ended up writing numerous articles, books, and pamphlets that were available to the public. Many whites were angered at the articles claiming those

lynched were innocent, while many African-Americans were glad to see truth spread through the community. The most common allegation, she found, was that African-American men were raping white women. Through more detailed research, Wells found that the blame should actually be put on the women in the first place. The women in these interracial relationships were usually the one to encourage or even start it. If the woman was not the one accusing the man of the rape, then it would be resentful men. Some men were jealous, hateful, or even sickened by the idea that their white women would be attracted to African-American men. Once the man was accused, if he was lucky, he would get a chance for a trial. On many occasions though a mob would be led to the accused and would be lynched. Even if law officials found out, no one would be sent to help the man. Wells also found three facts that were most disturbing to her. In truth, only one third of the rapes actually happened. Also, during the not so long ago civil war, women and children would be left at home, alone with slaves, as their men went off to war. Through this time, rape had been virtually unknown, yet now it was happening very often. Lastly, white men frequently assaulted African-American women, yet any affair at all between a white woman and an African-American man was considered rape. In addition to those lynched for rapes, there were still many other reasons an African-American could be lynched. No one was safe from this horror, as a thirteen-year old girl named Mildrey Brown was lynched on circumstantial evidence that she poisoned a white baby. Another common situation was for an African-American business man to be lynched. Most times there was no crime committed, but whites did not want to let the other men be successful. Three of Wells' own friends that were business men were lynched for crimes they did not commit. In the end, Wells concluded that these lynchings

were intended murder. Many were on circumstantial evidence or did not get fair trials because lawyers refused to serve African-Americans. Just as many times, the accused would not even get a chance at a fair trial. News of the incident would be leaked to the public, which would then form a mob to go lynch the "criminal" themselves. Wells wrote, "It becomes the painful duty of the negro to reproduce a record which shows that a large portion of the American people avow anarchy, condone murder, and defy the contempt of civilization". She believed that men, women, and children were being intentionally murdered to scare the public and suppress the advancement of African-Americans since slavery.

All across Illinois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett helped to stop injustice visited upon African-Americans, such as unfair lynchings and lack of fair trials, through her career as a powerful writer. Many more people could have been killed unfairly had she not devoted her life to researching the countless lynchings. Also due to her efforts, many African-Americans' lives improved greatly through the NAACP and the NACW. Her acts started many people in motion to end something that had gone on since the original English settlements. Her writing encouraged many more people to speak out against the unfortunate events happening in their lives. Luckily, people that are not as hindered as those of the past were. Thanks to Ida B. Wells-Barnett, the world today is much better than it had been. [From Dennis Brindell Fradin and Judith Bloom Fradin, *Ida B. Wells*; Vincent Franklin, *Living Our Stories, Telling Out Truths*; Ida B. Wells. <http://www.idabwells.org/About_IdaBWells/IdBWellsBiography.htm> (Sep. 21, 2008); Mississippi Writer's Page. <http://www.demiss.edu/mwp/dir/wells-

barnett_ida/index.html > (Sep. 15, 2008); and Elizabeth Van Steewyk, *Ida B. Wells-Barnett*.]

Women's Rights Movement of Illinois

Breanna N. Payton-Simons
Washington Gifted School, Peoria
Teacher: Mindy Juriga and J. Tracy Prescott

In the past women have not been treated the same as men. Now, an effort is made to treat everyone the same, regardless of their gender. Men were thought of as the stronger sex, while women were given menial tasks. For these reasons, women started to protest for their rights. The woman's rights movement took place all over the nation, but the most well known state for women's rights is Illinois. Women today enjoy having the same rights as men; this happened due to the protest and organizational skills of women such as Jane Addams of Chicago and Elizabeth Stanton.

The start of women's rights began as get-togethers for women. Eventually these get-togethers became conventions. The first convention was held between Elizabeth Stanton and her friends. Stanton wanted to go out and protest and soon her comrades joined in with her. Before they could actually protest, they had to get organized. The first official convention was held the next day and then extended into the day after that. It started on July 13, 1848, with only a handful of members, but soon grew. At the end of the two-day meeting, the women had twelve resolutions and had written a Declaration of Sentiment. The declaration was later called the Nineteenth Amendment.

Another woman of high power was Jane Addams. Ms. Addams and her friend, Ms. Elizabeth Starr, founded the Hull House in 1889. This house was founded in Chicago, Illinois, for the unfortunate women in the area. In the settlement, women were taught how to fight unjust laws in a safe way. The tenets started with issues around their neighborhood, such as impure milk and infrequent garbage collection. People just

seemed to gravitate toward the settlement. Women went to the Hull House to see Jane Addams. She was popular because she talked about controversial subjects but spoke and saw both sides of the situation. Men did not really favor her, but still went to hear her speak. Women came to the speeches because Addams spoke on subjects they felt strongly about, yet some were too afraid to say their thoughts aloud. Because of her protest and her leadership, the Nineteenth Amendment was passed in 1920.

Women's rights were not all of what women protested against. Due to the protests of Jane Addams and other women like her, Illinois was the first state that women were allowed to vote. Many of the protestors originated from Illinois; hence, that may be why the state was such a hot spot for women to gather to protest. Women were allowed only to vote in school matters and some other problems. This is not exactly what women wanted because they wanted the freedom to vote anything they wanted. In 1913, the law was extended even further. This time women were allowed to vote for everything and anything they wanted. To repeat, women protested for more than women's rights. They protested for the rights of others that were too young to vote for themselves. Women were upset by children working laws, or rather the lack of them. Women protested until children were no longer allowed to work in sweatshops or factories. Furthermore, women desired to work just like men. Florence Kelley was a huge supporter that thought women should be allowed to work. She eventually got equal working rights and equal working times for women. Kelley got a pension law for mothers that were working and neglected children, as well. Florence Kelley also became the first inspector ever to check out factories.

After women were allowed to vote, there was no stopping the great accomplishments they were capable of and allowed to do. Although women were allowed to work and vote, it took some time for people to get used to the idea. Women were granted the right to hold government office in 1870. The first women to hold office were in the early 1900s. Julia C. Lathrope was the first woman to become apart of the Illinois State Board of Public Charities in 1912. A real bridge was opened when Florence Fifer became the first woman to enter the state senate. Another outstanding woman was Myra Bradwell. She campaigned for the Illinois Senate but was not permitted. She protested and made a bill against the injustice. Bradwell's protesting paid off. Her bill was turned into an official law that still stands. Myra Bradwell's bill became the first anti-sex-discrimination law in Illinois. She continued to protest against discrimination in the United States. Due to her protests she became the first woman in the Illinois Press Association and the Illinois State Bar Association. In 1890 Bradwell became the first woman to be a part of the Illinois Supreme Court Justice. In March 1892, she got her original wish.

Women today enjoy having the same rights as men; this happened due to the protest and organizational skills of women such as Jane Addams and Elizabeth Stanton. To emphasize the previous statements, Jane Addams made an important contribution to the rights of women. A massive amount of women's rights movement and woman's suffrage came from this state. Clearly, woman of Illinois have contributed a great deal of good to the women's rights movement. [From Brian Conant, *Jane Addams* 1997, Illinois State Library. <http://www.lib.niu.edu/1998/ihy980455.html>. (Sept. 20, 2008); Bonnie Eisenberg and Mary Ruthsdotter, "Living the Legacy: The Women's Rights Movement.

1998. National Women's History Project. <hhtp://www.leagcy98.org/move-hist.html>. (Sept. 16, 2008); William P. Howard, *Illinois*; Jeremy Leming, "One Woman's Fight," *Church & State* Feb. 1, 2008; "Profile in African-American History: Carol Moseley Braun." *Time for Kids* Feb. 6, 2004; Brenda Rotsoll Warner, "Winning the War One Meal at a Time 'Mother Bickerdyke' Provided Civil War Supplies, Built Hospitals, Saved Lives," *Chicago Sun-Times*, Mar. 10, 2008; John Sutton, *The Prairie State*; and Brenda Warner Rotzoll, "Raising the Bar: One Woman's Desire to Help Her Young Husband Ultimately Improved the Legal Status of Every Woman in the United States," *Chicago Sun-Times*, Mar. 21, 2003.]

Jennie Hodgers: A True Survivor

Leigh Ruckman
Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville
Teacher: Michael Voss

Jennie Hodgers played a key role in the Civil War. Many people do not know the difference that Jennie and other women made in the war. Her story is important because, in that time, Jennie felt that disguising herself as a man was her only option for survival.

Jennie Hodgers was born in Clogherhead, Ireland, in the small village of Killybush, on December 25, 1843. After the Great Potato Famine, Ireland suffered badly. Although Jennie did not want to leave, she wanted more in her life than the few things that Killybush offered. She decided to leave Ireland for America. Jennie dressed up as a man for the trip, because she knew that she would be in danger as a woman. She took the name of Albert D.J. Cashier to further disguise herself.

Two months later her ship landed in Boston, Massachusetts. After it landed, Jennie found out that America was in a war. Not knowing what to do, she left Boston to head west. By walking and catching rides with passing wagons, Jennie reached the town of Belvidere, Illinois in July 1862.

When Jennie first reached Belvidere, she did not know what she would do. She found some jobs as a handyman and earned some good pay. Then, on August 6, 1862, Jennie decided to enlist into the army as Albert D. J. Cashier. Jennie was sent to Camp Fuller, a training camp for the army, in Rockford, Illinois. When Jennie arrived, she was put in the Ninety-Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Over the next three years, Jennie's regiment took part in forty battles, including the Battle of Vicksburg, and marched over 10,000 miles. On August 17, 1865, Jennie

was released from the army with an honorable discharge. No one had ever found out her real identity.

After she was discharged, Jennie traveled back to Belvidere, Illinois. She worked odd jobs there for four years before packing up again and headed to Saunemin, Illinois. Jennie got a job there with the Cording family. In return for meals and a place to sleep, she did odd jobs for them. After a couple of months, she took a job with a farmer. The farmer built a single-room cottage for her on his property. Jennie did jobs as a farmhand, handyman, sheep and cattle herder, and the lamplighter for Saunemin. She had to light the lamps at night and put them out in the morning.

Jennie was a citizen in Saunemin for almost fifty years. In 1910, she suffered from a severe case of stomach cramps from her own poor cooking. After not seeing anything of Jennie for several days, Mrs. Patricia Lannon, a good friend of Jennie's, went to her cottage to see if anything was wrong. When Patricia got there, she discovered Jennie lying in bed in pain. Patricia then called a nurse out to treat Jennie. When the nurse was treating her, she discovered that Jennie was really a woman but was asked not to tell anybody. Patricia Lannon and the nurse were the first ones to find out that Jennie was not really a man.

A little while later, Jennie worked for Illinois State Senator Ira M. Lish as a handyman. While Lish was backing his car out of the garage one day, he hit Jennie and ran over her leg, breaking it. When a doctor was called out to fix the leg, the doctor discovered that Jennie was not a man. While Jennie's leg was mending, Senator Lish decided to admit Jennie to the Soldier and Sailor's Home in Quincy, Illinois. This decision was made because Jennie could no longer take care of herself.

At the home, a few doctors and workers were told Jennie was a woman, but they were asked not to tell anybody and to keep it a secret. While Jennie was at the home, her physical and mental health began to fade. When getting a bath from two workers one day, they discovered her true identity. Not knowing to keep it a secret, more people came to know she was really a man.

On March 28, 1914, Jennie was transferred to Watertown State Hospital near Jacksonville, Illinois. This hospital was an insane asylum. By this time, Jennie was considered totally disabled and insane.

When Jennie arrived at Watertown, she was placed in the women's ward. She was forced to wear dresses and women's attire for the first time in fifty years. Day after day, Jennie's condition worsened. On October 10, 1915, Jennie passed away in her sleep.

Jennie was buried with full military honors in her uniform and laid to rest in a casket with America's colors. Her grave was in Senator Lish's family burial grounds at Sunny Slope Cemetery in Saunemin. Her headstone was inscribed as:

Albert D.J. Cashier
Co. G 95th Ill. Inf.

In conclusion, Jennie Hodgers will be remembered for her courage, ability to cope with hard situations, and to overcome great obstacles in life. Women today are fortunate that they can serve their country and their fellow citizens just as they are, a woman. But Jennie should also be remembered because she was the first woman in Illinois to vote, the only woman to ever serve in the Civil War for the whole entire time that her unit served, and she was the only woman to receive a pension for her service in the war. Jennie Hodgers was a true survivor. [From L.P. Dawson, Also Known as Albert D.J. Cashier; "When Jennie Comes Marching Home", www.lib.niu.edu/1994/ihy940230.html (Sept. 5,

2008); Vicksburg National Military Park, “Only by Accident,” www.nps.gov/archive/vick/visctr/sitebltn/only_by.htm (Sept. 5, 2008); and “Reclaiming Transgender Lives,” www.public.iastate.edu/~lelbert/MA_Al_Cashier.pdf (Sept. 5, 2008).]

Lydia Bradley

Sarah J. Schmitt
Washington Gifted School, Peoria
Teachers: Mindy Juriga and J. Tracy Prescott

"Dedicated to the memory of my beloved Tobias S. Bradley, and our deceased children, by Lydia Bradley". This sentence is displayed on the campus at Bradley University, arguably one of Lydia Bradley's greatest achievements. Lydia Bradley had an immense impact on the city of Peoria due to her beneficiary nature, her hard-working spirit, and her keen business sense.

Lydia Bradley lived in Peoria with her husband, Tobias Bradley. Seven days before their thirtieth wedding anniversary, in 1867, Tobias Bradley's horse-drawn carriage overturned, resulting in his untimely death. Contrary to his wife's interests, he had not produced a will at the time of his death. By the time his wealth was rightly awarded to Lydia Bradley, she had reconsidered the idea of creating an orphanage. After his death, she decided to hire respected Peorian lawyer W.W. Hammond to aid and advise her. Over several years she increased her fortune from $500,000 dollars to one million dollars. At this time in history, being a single female businesswoman was not the easiest thing to do. Some suspect that it is for this reason that she married Edward E. Clark, her second husband. Lydia Bradley insisted on a prenuptial agreement to protect her investments; she was the first woman in the nation to do so. After a short time, the couple had a friendly divorce, and Ms. Bradley never looked back.

In 1892, Lydia Bradley acquired controlling interest in Parson's Horological School in LaPorte, Indiana. She relocated this establishment, the first of its kind, to Peoria, and associated it with the Peoria Watch Company. Pleased by the making of her

first learning establishment, Bradley filed the idea of a larger school into the back of her mind. In addition to this accomplishment, she also aided in the creation of the Order of Saint Francis Medical Center, or OSF. The 'Sisters of the Order of St. Francis' came to Peoria to make a hospital. Lydia, interested in the project, offered them her property, the Isaac Underhill estate. The facility was called Bradley Hospital until her donation was returned, and the building renamed. Now it is one of downstate Illinois' biggest medical facilities. Equally astonishing is the tale of Peoria Park District. Lydia Bradley noticed the appalling lack of recreational areas for families, and decided to change that situation. When her large donation of land did not force the board to leap into action, she increased the acreage to 130, dangling the opportunity in front of their noses. The board was unable to resist, and the Peoria Park District was born. Bradley stipulated that a minimum of $5,000 be spent each year on improvements and upkeep for the various parks, one of them being Laura Bradley Park, named after her late daughter. Additionally, the First National Bank of Peoria was, at one point, headed by Lydia Bradley. After Tobias Bradley passed away, the bank invited her to take his place as president. She gracefully accepted the offer, and embraced her new duties with the passion that was her signature. Bradley was the first woman in the nation to be the president of a bank, and certainly, she did not allow her gender to hinder her progress. At one point, she was presented with a record of the bank's finances for the month, and replied that while it was not exemplary, she could not expect them to do any better. Furthermore, Ms. Bradley was very interested in the West Bluff area of Peoria. She bought large properties, divided them into lots, then sold them for several times their original price. In addition, her late husband, Tobias Bradley, had been very involved in

the Universalist Church. Lydia Bradley paid off the $30,000 mortgage for this church. To add to her list of good deeds, note the creation of the Bradley Home for Aged Woman in 1882-1884. Ms. Bradley gave a property to the association with the agreement that, once it was no longer used in this manner, it would promptly be returned to her. Depressingly, the home closed a few years later due to a lack of donations. Her worry and concern for the women she had been housing compelled her to pay $5,200 dollars for their place in the new Proctor Home.

Lydia Bradley had always nurtured the dream of opening a large learning facility in honor of her departed family. When her associate Dr. Harper suggested that she turn her project into a life estate, she snatched the idea. Bradley, as was her way, demanded full control over the operation. She hand-picked every board member, teacher, and the like to make sure that everyone was up to her exceptional standards. The Bradley dedication ceremony was held on October 8, 1897. Three years later, Lydia Bradley paid off all debts on the buildings. The university's first day of school was on October 4, 1897, and it had a yearly enrollment of 6,100 students. In 1902, the school became a four-year institution. The facility changed its name from the Bradley Polytechnic Institute to Bradley University in 1946. Currently, the University celebrates its creator on Founder's Day, which is October 8, 1907.

Lydia Bradley rarely complained about her health. On December 27, 1907, Al Corcoran was ordered to Lydia Bradley's bedside. Tragically, Bradley died on January 16, 1908, at ninety-one years of age. With the exception of members of European aristocracy, Lydia Bradley most likely had more real estate under her control than any other woman in the Western Hemisphere during her time. When she passed away, all but

$10,000 of her $2.8 million was given to her school. Her estate would remain with the Bradley Polytechnic Institute. Bradley also provided for all descendants of her father to have free tuition at Bradley. From her creating a watchmaker school, to forming a park in honor of her deceased daughter, Lydia Moss Bradley's philanthropy reaches across almost all aspects of Peoria, Illinois. [From Lyndee Henderson, *More than Petticoats*; Joe Hitchcock, "A Women Ahead of her Time." *Illinois History* Oct. 1989; Channy Lyons, *Women of Peoria: 1620 to 1920*; and Nancy Ridgeway, "Lydia Moss Bradley: Philanthropist," *Hilltopics* 1996.]

Ruth Bryan Owen Rohde

Marina Shah
University Laboratory High School, Urbana
Teacher: Adele Suslick

Women were not always able to serve in the U.S. government. Nor did they have many civil rights. There was even a time when the American citizenship of a woman was questioned if she married a man from another country. One woman who dealt with these problems was Ruth Bryan Owen Rohde. Not only did Ruth encounter prejudice, she fought it. In addition, she traveled to various places around the world, eventually entered Congress in Florida, and became Minister to Denmark.

Ruth Bryan Owen Rohde was born on October 2, 1885, in Jacksonville, Illinois, the daughter of Mary Elizabeth Baird Bryan and William Jennings Bryan. Ruth began school in Illinois and finished it in Nebraska after moving there with her family. Ruth grew up in a political atmosphere and aspired to be like her parents, both of whom were involved in law and government.

Ruth married three times and received her first experiences working outside the home during her second marriage. Her first husband was an artist named Homer Leavitt, and they were married for seven years, during which time Ruth had two children before her divorce in 1909. In 1910, Ruth married Reginald Altham Owen and lived in England and Jamaica. Major Owen was part of the Royal Engineers, and Ruth had one son with him during the four years Major Owen spent in Jamaica and England. While she was in London, Ruth spent thirteen months working with Mrs. Herbert Hoover as secretary-treasurer of the American Woman's War Relief Fund, which operated workrooms for women lacking jobs. She then worked at a Devonshire war hospital. When her husband

became sick and unable to work, Ruth took over as family breadwinner by lecturing, teaching, and directing at the University of Miami. Ruth married again later in life, after being appointed Minister to Denmark.

Ruth's interest in politics prompted her to maintain her father's campaign correspondence when she was younger. This later helped her win a seat in Congress in 1928. Even though Ruth lost the 1926 Democratic congressional primary, her strong political background inspired her to run again after her husband's death in 1928. Ruth managed to win this congressional race by appealing directly to voters, a technique she learned from her father.

After Ruth won a place in Congress, her Republican opponent became angry because he had lost to a woman and challenged her American citizenship. Ruth argued to gain her citizenship back, even though she had married an "alien"; eventually she won her case and regained her citizenship. Once she took her position in Congress, Ruth was unanimously accepted by the Committee on Elections and helped women gain independent citizenship. In other words, women could keep their American citizenship no matter whom they married. In 1930, Ruth was reelected to Congress.

Ruth's dedication to her job is reflected in her accomplishments while in Congress. In one instance, Ruth was arguing to win property for the government. Her opponent was arguing that snakes were a problem in the Everglades and, therefore, the property was undesirable. She responded to this by wrapping a snake around her neck to demonstrate her lack of fear for snakes. While in Congress, Ruth extended women's rights by approving a woman's appointment to a cabinet office. She also focused on

child welfare, the welfare of families, and health issues by allocating funds for international conferences on these subjects.

After serving two years in Congress, Ruth ran again and lost because she was beaten two-to-one in a "wet" vs. "dry" race regarding the purchase of alcohol. Ruth's career in government, however, was not over yet. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her Minister to Denmark in 1933, making this Illinois woman the first to hold such a high diplomatic post representing the United States.

After marrying Captain Borge Rohde, Ruth returned to the United States with her family, continued her writing, and lectured. In 1939, she became a visiting professor for Monticello College. Even though Ruth no longer worked in government, her political interests were passed on to her daughter, Helen Rudd Owen. Ruth died in 1954 and was buried near Copenhagen in Denmark.

All in all, Ruth Bryan Owen Rohde led a fulfilling and meaningful life. She was able to assume a position in Congress, have a large family, serve as Minister to Denmark, and pass on her love for politics to her daughter. She was an influential woman who helped achieve important changes in laws and finance. [From Ken Bonner, "County will not receive tax on alcohol." *Daily Sentinel* Scottsboro, AL. January 27, 2005. <http://www.potsdam.edu>. (Sept. 29, 2008); Gail Clement, "Ruth Bryan Owen (Rohde)." N.D. Florida International University. <http://everglades.fiu.edu>. (Sept. 8, 2008); Paolo Coletta, "Ruth Bryan Owen Rohde." *Dictionary of American Biography*. Biography Resource Center. Farmington Hills, Mich. 2008. <http://galenet.galegroup.com>. (Aug. 25, 2008); Jo Freeman, "Ruth Bryan Owen: Florida's First Congresswoman." *F.A.W.L. Journal*, p. 15. 2000. <http://uic.edu>. (Sept.

11, 2008); and "Ruth Bryan Owen Rohde." *Encyclopedia of World Biography*. Biography Resource Center. Gale Research. 1998. <http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet.BioRC>. (Sept. 8, 2008).]

Florence Louise Atkinson Criley

Ghania Sukhera
East Prairie School, Skokie
Teacher: Suzan Bates

Florence Louise Atkinson Criley struggled for equal rights for all minorities not just for women but for everyone. Criley was born in1915 in Barberton, Ohio, during a time when many immigrants were entering the United States. She started with a rough childhood, having to work while in high school to support her family. In the process she had a good start on understanding jobs. She joined and helped a few unions, first helping factory workers get equality and then helping women and other minorities get their equality as well. Criley also created a union to help all women stand up for themselves. All her hard work led to her having the night of Women's day dedicated to her.

Working in different jobs such as a singer, waitress, social worker, and working on an assembly line, Florence Criley learned how important a labor movement is for workers. While working at all these jobs she set up a sit down strike in Barberton, Ohio. Then she moved to San Francisco with her whole family of 13 siblings and her mother. There she joined the International Long Shore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) as their manager then became their director. Later during the First World War some of the trade unions went on strike. When Florence wanted to join, the union did not allow her. She tried to keep peace with the pro-strikers but they began to be abusive. Therefore, she joined the strike and was fired from her post in the union. Later was hired as director in the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) where she stayed for 30 years.

Criley's time in the ILWU was all right, but she did not feel very comfortable

with its rules. When she joined the (UE) she still had problems. In Illinois, she was in charge of buildings that stood in the far south side of Chicago. The workers were all men and said that they did not want a woman as their superior and gave her a six-month trial period to prove herself worthy. The workers began to trust her as their manager. She became the top UE specialist in forging hammer shops and a role model for many other women.

When the Cold War started it really slowed down the growth of labor unions. The anticommunists wanted to break the labor unions. The Taft–Hartley Act really weakened the UE. Other unions raided their shops and the international UE decided to break down the unions in New York and Massachusetts.

The International UE started employing as many women workers as possible. Criley traveled all over the Mid-Atlantic to support the union elections. In this election the UE and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL- CIO) went against each other and both became weak. The UE made Criley their field organizer and help lead the organizing effort at Bell and Howell.

After this Criley left the UE and became a shop worker at the Chicago Transformer until 1951 when she rejoined the UE as field organizer again. She unionized many shops and went to all union related meetings. She became the first woman in the position of the International Representative for the UE. She then helped other small unions to keep from going under; helped them form discipline in negotiations to keep them from having a brutal fight. To make this happen she needed the support of African Americans and she went to their churches, gave speeches of UE devotion, and handed out fliers. Even with all the effort Criley put in, the GHR Iron Foundry union went down and

now one union needed to control their foundry. The government supported the AFL-CIO, and the AFL-CIO's leaders hated the UE. In the end Criley received the GHR foundry.

After helping all these unions Criley also stopped two raids from happening in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. She and her husband joined committees for Protection of the Foreign born and many others for the equality of minorities. Since they joined these unions, the government watched them. Also her husband became unemployed because the government put him on the Black List. Later Criley joined the Feminist Movement. She wanted to help women get equal rights but she did not want to break male unions even if they were prejudiced towards female unions. She then became an important agent in the making of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). The CLUW set goals they wanted to accomplish through this union. These were (1) to help over worked employees; (2) to gain equal rights for women, and (3) to make the union women more active in legislation.

More than 3,000 women attended first CLUW meeting. Criley became the leader of the Chicago chapter and died as their treasurer. Criley died of a heart attack and arthritis. Her service was held in Automobile Mechanics Hall in Chicago on June 6, 1976. This woman worked very hard from the start of her life, joining unions, helping minorities get equal rights, and building a union to help women especially get their equal rights. Women like her played an important role in helping women receive the rights they deserve. Many of these women are forgotten or never told about. It is our job to have them remembered. Naming the night of Women's Day to Florence Criley is a great way to honor her accomplishments. [From Lunin Schultz, *Women Building Chicago,*

1790-1990.]

Sarah Ann Hackett Stevenson

Melissa N. Urban
Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville
Teacher: Michael Voss

Sarah Ann Hackett Stevenson helped women in numerous ways. An example was when she became the first woman admitted to the American Medical Association. How did this and all other of Sarah Ann Hackett Stevenson's work benefit Illinois history?

Sarah Ann Hackett Stevenson was born February 2, 1841, in Buffalo Grove (now Polo), Illinois. Stevenson was almost thirty-five years of age when she started her successful medical practice. She attended Mount Carroll University, and then graduated from Illinois State Normal University in 1863. She then taught in Illinois for four years.

After teaching, she then studied at Woman's Hospital Medical College in Chicago, where she earned an M.D. degree in 1874. Before earning her M.D., she studied in London, England for a year with Thomas Huxley at the Sound Kensington Science School.

After earning her M.D., Stevenson set up a medical practice in Chicago. From 1875 to 1880, she was a professor of histology and physiology at her alma mater, which after 1879 was called Woman's Medical College. She was also the first woman on the staff at Cook County Hospital. Also, she was a professor of obstetrics from 1880 until 1894.

In 1886, Stevenson was appointed as an alternate for the American Medical Association convention in Philadelphia, and when the delegate was not able to attend, she became the first women member on the American Medical Association.

Stevenson was also one of the founders of the Illinois Training School for Nurses in 1880. Stevenson also was a part of the Woman's Temperance Union. When Chicago's Frances E. William's Temperance Hospital opened, she was the medical staff president. She also helped found The Home for Incurables and the Chicago Maternity Center. Hackett Stevenson wrote books on biology for school use, many articles for health journals, and became staff correspondent for the *Record Newspaper*.

In 1892, Stevenson, along with two other women physicians headed a crusade to build public baths in poor and immigrant neighborhoods, due to the expected cultural norm of personal cleanliness, and the fact that the poor and working class did not have bathing facilities in their homes. Thanks to their hard work and determination, the first Chicago public bath house opened in 1894. Twenty-one were built between 1894 and 1918.

In 1893, Stevenson was a co-chair with Julia Holmes Smith, who was also an IWPA founder, of the Medical and Surgery Congress and The World's Congress of Medico-Climatology at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

After Stevenson suffered a stroke in 1903, she retired from professional work, and in 1906, she moved into St. Elizabeth's Hospital. She died at the age of 68 at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and is now buried at St. Boniface Cemetery in Chicago.

In conclusion, Sarah Ann Hackett Stevenson benefited Illinois by being a leader to all women. Stevenson was determined, willing, brave, and very knowledgeable, which made her persevere through all of the important work she did in Illinois history. If Sarah Ann Hackett Stevenson had not been there, some information on biology, physiology, and histology may not have been revealed or taught in the way that she viewed it. Sarah

Ann Hackett Stevenson is a very good role-model for young women, and she truly helped women's Illinois history in many ways, big and small. [From American Medical Association, "Women Physicians and the American Medical Association," <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/17095.html> (Sept. 2, 2008); James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff, *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*; IWPA, "So We All Can Be Head," <http://www.iwpa.org/heard0205.html> (Sept. 10, 2008); and Phyllis J. Read and Bernard L. Witlieb, *The Book of Women's Firsts*.]

Ella Flagg Young – A Pioneer Woman

Kari Wiegmann
All Saints Academy, Breese
Teacher: Stephanie Garcia

Is there anything that opens more doors then an education? Ella Flagg Young thought not. Even though she was born in Buffalo, New York, on January 15, 1845, her family settled in the Chicago, Illinois area. Young was a person, who at first, was not sure if she even liked school at all. So how did this woman become the first woman Superintendent for the Chicago area Schools? On her way to becoming Superintendent, she enjoyed a life that brought her closer to that calling.

Ella's parents thought it was important to have Ella at home tending the garden and helping with house work, but yet they never missed a chance to provide Ella with as many opportunities as possible. At the age of ten, when she was not needed at home, Ella tagged along with her father when he went to work. Being the inquisitive, young lady she was, she never stopped asking questions about his work. She would often pester her father, determined to find out what he was doing. A few months later her mother was reading a newspaper article about a schoolhouse fire. Ella, although terrified, kept on looking at the words over her mother's shoulder and became very curious. She nagged her mother to reread the article over and over. She freely took the article herself and separated the words until eventually, the words came clear to her. She had taught herself to read. At age thirteen, Ella begged her parents to send her to school. She was sent to Brown Grade School where she studied diligently, progressing much above her grade level. She wanted to move onto high school but was told she needed to complete another

full year at Brown to qualify her for the high school examination. Ella wanted no part of this test and eventually quit school all together.

Two years later, at age fifteen, Ella took the teacher's examination and passed, but once again she hit a roadblock and was refused her teaching certificate because of her age. A Superintendent of one of the Chicago's schools thought attending normal school would help Ella on her way to becoming a full time teacher. She accepted his offer learning to teach standardized curriculums, popular in pre-Civil War classrooms.

Even though her own mother discouraged Ella from teaching, she was not fazed and proved her mother wrong. She wanted to become the best teacher she could be. Ella was asked to visit classrooms to improve her teaching skills. She observed several classrooms before discovering Miss Rounds' class. She knew then being a teacher was her calling. Ella spoke about her experience, "In the course of an hour, I was conscious that here was a relation between teacher and children, an atmosphere enveloping all that I had never known in a school."

Within a week, Ella was asked if she would like to teach the class herself. From that day forward she became the student's second teacher. Ella's mother heard of Ella's teaching, and to Ella's surprise she became one of her biggest supporters.

Within months, at the age of seventeen, Ella graduated from normal school and found employment as a primary teacher at Chicago's Foster School. Although excited about her new job, she was saddened by her mothers' sudden death but knew she would have wanted her to follow her vocation.

At age eighteen, she decided to return to Brown Grade School, her alma mater, as an assistant principle. Doubling her salary to $500 a month, she was expected to keep up

with her job as well as teaching a class of fifty-six. This included helping teachers to keep focused on their students and do whatever necessary.

Within two years, Ella was offered the job of Principal of the Practice School and later the Principal of Skinner's School in Chicago. She devoted most of her time to her job, while also pursuing others interests. In 1868, putting her job aside, Ella married William Young.

Within a year, she was appointed by the governor to the Illinois Board of Education and attended the meetings monthly. While serving on the Illinois Board, she joined the University of Chicago staff as an associate professor. She was to look over the ideas of John Dewey, where she tested his functions of teaching and eventually she was given her Ph.D. for her work, *Isolation in the Schools.* In her owns words she transferred her ideas into ways the teachers could follow.

In 1909, Ella was chosen by the Board of Illinois Education to be the first woman Superintendent of the Chicago School Areas. This infuriated many in Chicago. They did not like the idea of a women given management of such a big school system. Ella ignored the anger and continued with her work. Ella added more subjects to the curriculum, organized special needs programs for handicapped, created health classes to teach sex education to boys and girls, supported gardening in classrooms in order that children could learn the growing process, and incorporated vocational, manual arts, technical training—as she was taught as a child—standard curriculum, and helped fight for women's rights. Before retiring after seven years of superintendency, she was elected into the Illinois State Teacher Association in 1910 and later she awarded her doctorate degree of law.

Ella Flagg Young died October 26, 1918. She had been a noble honorable student, teacher, and superintendent. She was dedicated from the start when all she wanted was to educate children in the best possible way. Ella was put down by men and some women. She bent over backwards for the Chicago area with many organizations. The time and effort she put in to help students and teachers was great. Teachers are still following her example. [From Jackie M. Blount, *Destined to Rule the Schools*; Lyndee Jobe Henderson, *Remarkable Illinois Women*; Mary J. Herrick, *The Chicago Schools*; Henry C. Johnson and Erwin V. Johanningmeier, *Teachers for the Prairie*; John T. McMannis, *Ella Flagg Young and a Half-Century of the Chicago Public Schools*; and Dr. Ella Flagg Young, *Isolation in the School*.]

Julie Lathrop

Josh Wiggins
Oregon High School, Oregon
Teacher: Sara Werckle

It was June 29, 1958, in Rockford, Illinois when William, a Republican politician who had served in the state legislature, and his wife Sarah, Adeline, Lathrop, an active abolitionist and suffragette, gave birth to the first of five children. The child was Julia Clifford Lathrop. She went on to accomplish many things in her life, such as being appointed to the Illinois Board of Charities, creating the first juvenile court of the United States, as well as becoming a leader on the Children's Bureau in the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Lathrop attended the Rockford Female Seminary in 1876-1877, following in the footsteps of her mother who was a graduate in the school's first year. It was after her attendance at Rockford College that Julie Lathrop entered Vassar, graduating in the class of 1880. While at Vassar she studied various subjects including statistics, institutional history, sociology, and community organization. Lathrop's interest in multidisciplinary studies would eventually lead to her part in helping to create the School of Euthenics at Vassar with trustees Minnie Cumnock Blodgett and Ellen Swallow Richards. Lathrop's next career move was helped greatly by her father William Lathrop. He was quite active in politics as well as a friend of President Lincoln. It was through his connections and interest in politics that he drafted the first bill that allowed women to practice law. After her graduation, Julia Lathrop went to work at her father's firm as his personal secretary and law assistant to learn about the workings of law.

In 1890, Lathrop moved to a very impoverished section of Chicago. This move

was spurred by the visit of Ellen Gates Starr and Jane Addams to Rockford Seminary. They came to their alma mater to promote the idea of the Hull House. It was to be a settlement home to the students and members of the community. During Lathrop's stay at the Hull House, she founded the Hull House Plato Group. It was comprised mainly of older men who debated philosophical and religious matters. Lathrop also took an extensive survey to bring about the truth of how bleak the living conditions were in the area. To publicize her findings, she wrote the "Hull House Maps and Papers." Governor Altgeld appointed her to the Illinois Board of Charities in 1892 in recognition of her work. Her accomplishments while serving on Board of Charities include visiting all of Illinois 102 poor houses, as well as, creating the United States first juvenile court, located in Chicago in 1899. The protection of juveniles from being tried in an adult court was a great concern of Lathrop's. She stated "the growing child must not be treated by those rigid rules of criminal procedure which confessedly fail to prevent offenses on the part of adults or cure adult offenders." Lathrop also became a trustee of the Immigrants' Protection League, an active member of the Chicago Women's Club, and a member of the National League of Women Voters.

Julie Lathrop ended her 22 year stay at the Hull House with a move to Washington, D. C. where she was appointed chief of the newly created Children's Bureau by President Taft in 1912. Lathrop cared deeply for the welfare of children. On November 15, 1915, while debating whether the death of a mentally defective baby was just or not, she said, "It seems almost unspeakable that a mother should desire the death of a child even if it be helplessly defective." This made Lathrop the first female bureau chief in the history of the United States. Her newly appointed position did not come

without risk. Cecillia Tichi states, "If she failed, her name would be synonymous with governmental waste and female incompetence." During her 10-year term Lathrop put a very high importance on issues such as child labor laws and juvenile delinquency. Lathrop also served a one-year term, which lasted from 1818 to 1819, as President of the National Conference for Social Work.

Lathrop's work in public affairs was not limited to America. She became active internationally in 1918 when President Wilson sent her and a fellow social worker, Grace Abbott, to an international conference on child welfare in Europe. It was there Lathrop played a key role in the formation of a new childcare bureau of Czechoslovakia. She traveled back to Europe in 1925 on behalf of the League of National Childcare Commissions to battle against the capital punishment of juveniles.

It is plain to see that Julia Lathrop was a truly amazing woman. She accomplished so much in the pursuit of helping not only women and children but factory workers, the elderly, the impoverished, and the mentally ill as well. No matter where her passion for charity led her, she always came back to her birthplace of Rockford, Illinois. Her life, sadly, came to an end there in 1932. [From "Heroes for a Culture of Peace." www.peacekids.net, Julia Lathrop, http://www.peacekids.net/heroes/pagesw-l/lathrop-quotes.htm. (Oct. 16, 2008); "Julia Lathrop." www.webster.edu, http://www.webster.edu/~woolflm/lathrop.html. (Oct. 1, 2008); "Julia Lathrop." http://vcencyclopedia.vassar.edu. http://vcencyclopedia.vassar.edu/index.php/Julia_Lathrop. (Oct. 1, 2008); "Julia Lathrop Fights Decision on Baby's Death." www.disabilitymuseum.org. Disability History Museum, http://www.disabilitymuseum.org/lib/docs/1229.htm. (Oct. 16, 2008; and

Cecilia Tichi. "Justice, Not Pity: Julia Lathrop, First Chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau." www.libraryofcongress.edu, 2007, http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2007/07-122.html. (Oct. 16, 2008).]